

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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New openness dawns in Choctaw ministry

By Teresa Dickens

Nestled in the rolling hills of east central Mississippi is a nation within a nation. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians owns the land it occupies, elects its own leaders, enacts and enforces its own laws, and prosecutes its own law offenders.

But the Choctaws are not an island unto themselves. While distinctly different in many ways from the inhabitants around them, the people also bear many similarities with their neighbors.

That is especially true of Choctaw Baptists. Their worship is the same as English-speaking Mississippi Baptists. (Except for different sounding words, the tune of "Where the Roses Never Fades" is easily recognizable.) They dress the same and offer the same ministries.

The needs in Choctaw Baptist churches also match those in neighboring churches. Pastors seek and pray for better trained leaders, more involvement in evangelism and ministry by laypeople, and a stronger commitment in giving to support missions through the Cooperative Program, the association and the local church.

Part of this similarity can be explained by the long relationship Choctaw Baptists have had with both the Southern and Mississippi Baptist conventions. The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board assigned its first missionary to work among the Mississippi

Choctaws in the 1920s. Today, the HMB and MBC work together in providing missionary leadership among the Native Americans.

In 1963, the HMB helped establish the Baptist Indian Center, which today is located in Pearl River Indian Community, the site of the Tribal offices. The Baptist center houses offices for the New Choctaw Association—consisting of 13 churches, and serves as the outlet for the association's food and clothing ministries.

Given all the similarities and long, formal relationship between the two groups of Mississippi Baptists, one might expect the two groups to share a close working relationship as well. However, for much of their history, the contrary has been true. An invisible wall has kept them separate from each other.

But through what many call a miracle, the wall is beginning to crumble. Both sides are demonstrating a new openness in working together in missions and ministry.

Some of the leaders involved in the ministry with Choctaw Indians attribute the new openness in the relationship to English-speaking churches' mission efforts among Choctaw Baptists. Several churches have provided volunteer builders for construction projects among Choctaw churches. Others have made donations to the Choctaw association's food and

clothing ministries. And still others have provided workers for Vacation Bible Schools in several churches.

The effort also has involved Mississippi Baptists' making money available through their annual Cooperative Program budget to fund training events and other projects among Choctaw Baptist churches. Part of that support has included the availability of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board personnel to lead training conferences and provide other assistance when requested by Choctaw leaders.

Other leaders say the leadership of Choctaw Director of Missions Lee Bacon is a significant factor in the new openness between the two groups. Bacon, who retires Sept. 30, has cultivated numerous opportunities during his three years as DOM, for the two groups to work together.

While Bacon acknowledges that he has been intentional in trying to create opportunities for the two groups to work together, he said the new openness on the part of his people is more likely due to a new spirit among white Mississippi Baptists.

"Their attitude toward us is no longer maternalistic," remarked Bacon. "Rather, they ask, 'What can a Choctaw do for himself? Then, what assistance can we provide?'"

Choctaws also have found



Choctaw Pastor Ellis Thompson (left) looks on as Margie Gibson prepares a box of food for a needy family. Over 230 families a month receive help through the association's food ministry. (Photo by Teresa Dickens)

acceptance among white people, Bacon added. He recounted an incident involving a Choctaw youth who attended a training event with him. There, the young man met a group of Baptist youths who welcomed him and showed a genuine interest in Choctaw life. The enthusiasm created in the teen through the experience resulted in his becoming an evangelist among his peers on the reservation.

"I encouraged our leaders to go off the reservation to training events because I believed once they met leaders from white churches, their feelings would change," explained Bacon.

"And that has happened," he affirmed. "Our pastors and leaders have discovered that they are not alone in the problems they have in their churches. White churches have the same problems."

Although leaders may not agree on who changed—Choctaw or English-speaking Mississippi Baptists, all agree that more is at work in their relationship than human effort.

"The Lord has opened the doors," concluded Don Wilson, the consultant in the MBCB ministry office who serves as a liaison with the Choctaw Indians. "The only thing we have done or can do is walk through them."

Heirs of the Faith — Baptists celebrate Language Missions heritage

Twelve-year-old Khanh came to the United States alone. Separated from his parents during an escape attempt from Vietnam, he had survived two weeks on a rickety fishing boat, often without food or water; he had spent a year by himself in a refugee resettlement camp in the Philippines. Sponsored by an American family, he arrived in the United States speaking only three words of English and desperately needing a haircut.

A decade later, a junior in college, he returned to Vietnam during his summer holiday.

For six weeks he visited his family — mother, father, and siblings — an experience so touching for him that he kissed the ground when he arrived. He spent time with an 87-year-old grandmother and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. He heard his father, studying for the ministry, preach to a packed audience at the little church near his home. It was

for him an incredible time, a time of discovery, of renewal, and he lived on an adrenaline-pumped high.

Then he returned to the United States. This time he arrived speaking fluent English, and not needing a haircut.

"How was the trip?" he was asked. "How do you feel, now that you're back in the States?"

"Oh," Khanh replied simply, "I think it's good to be home."

That is the American experience.

Immigrants all, we are the children of Columbus, and of the Native Americans who welcomed him. For five centuries, we have come to America and discovered home.

In whatever age we come, of course, we come for other reasons: freedom from persecution, hunger, despair, war. We seek opportunity, security, peace, prosperity.

Make no mistake. Few of us come without sacrifice, even to escape the most painful and dangerous circumstances. It's hard to leave our roots and voyage to this unknown ideal called America.

The challenge confronts us to share with today's newcomers the treasure we have discovered in our decades on this soil: the safety of God's grace and the security of Christ's love.

The reality of expressing that faith is found in the language missions efforts of the Home Mission Board.

The children of Columbus — and of Columbus' welcoming committee — comprise a mosaic of more than 500 ethnic groups. Nearly half of the 240 million of us Americans identify ourselves as language-culture people. We speak 636 languages and dialects.

This ethnic diversity challenges Southern Baptists to witness, minister, and start churches.

Already the Southern Baptist Convention is the most integrated denomination in America. We, as Southern Baptists, worship and study the Bible in 101 languages and dialects. More than 6,125 language-culture congregations/units — with about 500,000 members — are affiliated with Southern Baptist associations, state conventions, and the Southern Baptist Convention. God is moving among ethnic Americans.

Yet with all that Southern Baptists are doing, less than .5% of the ethnic people in our nation are members of Southern Baptist churches.

Consider on this Language Missions Day, our need to celebrate and reach out to ethnic Americans:

• Rejoice. Thank God for what he is doing among language-culture people living in the United States.

• Pray. An all-night prayer vigil, common among many ethnic

churches (especially fast-growing Korean congregations), could set a mood of worship and expectancy.

• Worship. Plan a Language Missions Day celebration: stage a drama, plan an ethnic cultural fair, serve a multicultural meal, exchange pulpits with a language pastor, pray for language missionaries.

• Share. Determine the need for an ethnic ministry or congregation in your community and lead your church to meet that need: sponsor a refugee family, start an ethnic ministry, conduct a "library shower" for new ethnic pastors in your association, enlist tutors from among church members for ethnic children.

For materials or more information, contact your associational director of missions, your state language missions director, or the Home Mission Board's Language Church Extension Division at 1-800-634-2462.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Sex mania

We are being bombarded by the fall-out from a sex-saturated society. Book shelves are burdened, television oozes sex 24 hours a day, and it is portrayed from billboards to advertisements, plus being laced into most conversations. Clayton Musser, in *Sex; our Myth-Theology*, says, "Sex is one of the chief pre-occupations of our culture and loud voices discuss in the market place even while the cathedral facing the square offers only a silence." *Time*, *Look*, *Newsweek*, *Pageant*, and *Esquire* have all announced their sex ethic. Do we continue to maintain silence?

Living in a sexual jungle produces strange results. John Drakford calls it "The Great Sex Swindle." Evangelist Hugh Pyle declares the "sexy sixties gave way to the sordid seventies and the erotic eighties. Now in the nasty nineties we are reaping the whirlwind." America has struck sex o'clock quipped one wit, a flash flood of sexism and we have overdosed on it. Erma Bombeck declared sex to be one of the greatest spectator sports of our day. More frightening are the words of Harvard's Dr. Sorokin, "Our society oozes sex at the pores. Unless there is a change, we are headed for the ash heap. No nation has survived an obsession with sex. We are looking at a nation on its deathbed."

Guest opinion...

Invitation — a time for decisions, not irreverence

By Lynn P. Clayton

Irreverence during the time of public invitation should be distressing for any thoughtful Christian. One would think that Baptists, of all people, would realize the strategic nature of publicly inviting people to accept Christ — and the vast majority of Baptists do. But a tiny minority in any size congregation can deaden and dishearten the spirit of the invitation.

Sadly, in almost every congregation there seems to be a few people who use the invitation time for almost everything except its intended purpose. These thoughtless few use the time to get a head-start on leaving, gather personal belongings and put on coats, visit about where to eat lunch, stare out the window, or display almost total boredom. (Added to these groups could be those ushers loudly opening doors and generally preparing for the exit as though that is far more important than people going forward.)

What must it be like for a non-

Christian unfortunate enough to stand near the minority of disruption? Imagine, a non-Christian searching to do the right thing during the invitation. The entire service has been a challenging presentation of the gospel, and now he is asked to accept Christ. The pastor explains carefully that this is the most important decision of his life. The non-Christian is urged not to leave the auditorium without making a positive decision.

But a person walking out into the aisle is walking out the back, not toward the front; or a family gathers belongings and puts on coats, almost prohibiting serious consideration of any decision in that vicinity; or some teenagers act as though standing is for sort of a seventh-inning stretch and visit, and the non-Christian may not even hear what the pastor has said.

A minute of serious thought should end such irreverence. An invitation usually lasts about five minutes. Presenting new members

and others who make decisions takes only brief minutes. Isn't the importance of what should happen during the invitation more crucial than getting out of the auditorium three or four minutes early?

If we are going to have invitations — and certainly we must — they should be utilized by each worshipper. The invitation is a time for each person to consider the implications of his worship, and its message, for his life. The invitation is a time of contemplation when each person should determine to be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only. Also, intense prayer should be offered for people struggling with a life-changing decisions. There should not be any doubt about the importance of the invitation for each worshipper.

We must not allow irreverence during the invitation to do the unthinkable — discourage persons from following God's will.

Clayton is editor, Louisiana BAPTIST MESSAGE.

Guy Henderson



Safe Sex



There's been a lot of talk about safe sex lately. God's had a plan all along.



Pigskin season

It has little to do with pigs, and the season is almost year round. Kickoff is nearing and coaches and moms worry. One anxious coach declared he would have to suit out the cheerleaders to have a full squad.

The cartoon has the man easing into his favorite chair with the video machine in the corner. "Do you have anything to say, dear, before the season begins?" was his question to his wife.

Soon the sweet gum leaves will be yellow and red and little puffs of cotton will appear along Delta highways. "Huddle up" will be the command heard most.

Across Mississippi we have some great coaches who are interested in growing character as well as football players. Sure they like to win but they also realize there is a larger playing field and you need to be a winner there.

From high schools, colleges, and professional ranks there are believers who stand for their faith. Christian athletes are active on many campuses. A group of basketball players from Mississippi toured Brazil and Argentina a few years ago. They presented a very positive witness to the fans and players. During half-time they gave their testimonies, enabling many

fans to hear the gospel for the first time. It made a tremendous impact for the cause of Christ.

Joe Gibbs, one of the more successful NFL coaches, has been called the "Number One Coach of all Times." In his book *Fourth and One*, he closes by saying, "If you've gotten nothing from this book except a lot of football, I have wasted my time and yours. I want you to have a right relationship with the Lord. That's the real value in life, that's the real treasure.... Without Christ, my life would be nothing."

Tom Landry, former coach of the Dallas Cowboys and a very popular Christian speaker, quotes Horace Greeley in his autobiography: "Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings; those who cheer today will curse tomorrow; only one thing endures — character."

Boys from 8 to 80 are still interested in the game. Most Mississippi high schools and colleges will be involved in it for the next five months. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is active in many of our communities. Would the message of Coach Gibbs and Coach Landry could be learned along with the Xs and Os.

— GH

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ACTS, VISN cable officials finalize agreement July 28

By Bob Terry

DENVER, Colo. (ABP) — The agreement between ACTS, the Southern Baptist cable television network, and VISN, an interfaith cable TV network, was finalized July 28 in Denver.

The former competitors will begin sharing a common television channel Oct. 1. The move will save both networks money and may turn ACTS into a money-making venture for the first time since its launch in 1984, network officials said.

ACTS, based in Fort Worth, Texas, currently has a potential audience of about 8 million households.

VISN, based in New York, was launched in 1988 and now claims 12 million households. The 28 faith groups participating in VISN include Lutherans, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, United Methodists, and other mainline Protestant denominations, as well as Eastern Orthodox, Catholic, and Jewish groups.

ACTS will provide eight hours of programming per day for the shared channel. VISN will furnish 16 hours per day. Both networks

will continue to prohibit fund-raising, proselytizing and maligning of other faiths.

Richard McCartney, executive vice president of the Radio and Television Commission, said the joint operating agreement will send ACTS programming into areas of the country where Southern Baptists are not strong. He cited the West Coast, the northern tier of states, and the Northeast as places where VISN's market penetration will make Baptist programming widely viewable for the first time.

The cable systems that carry ACTS are concentrated in the South and Southwest, areas where VISN is weak.

By combining their current cable TV outlets, the two networks will have access to more than 20 million U.S. homes. The deal could eventually make the ACTS-VISN channel the largest religious cable network in the country. Only Eternal Word Television Network, a Roman Catholic cable network reaching 23-to-27 million homes, claims a wider reach.

The ACTS-VISN partnership

"will be the largest cable religious faith and values channel in very short order," Nelson Price, president of VISN, predicted July 16.

Although rumored for months, the agreement did not come together until July 24. The next evening the Radio and Television Commission's executive committee met at the Dallas-Fort Worth airport to approve the agreement. The RTVC trustees also serve as trustees for ACTS.

McCartney emphasized ACTS and VISN are not merging. They will share one channel while maintaining separate corporate identities.

"We had no interest in merging with anyone or losing our identity as the ACTS Television Network," McCartney said.

He explained that both ACTS and VISN signed operating agreements with VISN Group Inc., an operating company which provides sales, marketing, master control and uplink to satellites. Previously, the company serviced only VISN.

McCartney acknowledged the agreement will relieve a financial
(See ACTS on page 9)

FMB trustee chairman ready to talk to moderate group

By Mark Wyatt

FRESNO, Calif. (BP) — The Foreign Mission Board's trustee chairman says he "will be happy to sit down and talk with" Cooperative Baptist Fellowship leaders to "clear up misperceptions" about how foreign missionaries are appointed.

"Rather than continue the controversy, I want to heal relationships," John Jackson, pastor of First Church of Fairfield, Calif., told the California Southern Baptist, newsjournal of the California Southern Baptist Convention.

Although no timetable has been set, Jackson said he expects to talk soon with leaders of the CBF organization of SBC moderates.

Jackson was asked to initiate talks with CBF leaders during a July 27 meeting he and other FMB trustee leaders had with leaders of the Woman's Missionary Union about the past and future relationship between the FMB and WMU.

Jackson said the talks with

WMU leaders are intended to "further the longstanding relationship we've always had." Noting that the FMB is "dependent on WMU for much of our budget," Jackson said the possibility WMU may begin "raising funds for CBF places in jeopardy our relationship."

"We do not wish to control nor exercise any power over WMU. That's not our responsibility," Jackson said. "We are deeply concerned about any decisions that would jeopardize our longstanding relationship. We don't want to see any deterioration of our longstanding love relationship."

Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director, voiced gratitude for the dialogue, saying, "It was helpful to have a forum to discuss troublesome issues such as Ruschlikon and to express our prayerful concern regarding their selection of a new FMB president." (A Baptist seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, was eliminated by FMB

trustees from this year's budget; FMB President R. Keith Parks has announced his retirement in October over philosophical differences with trustees.)

"We are also pleased," O'Brien said, "that there will be ongoing discussions in which we can deal with complex problems in our convention together. It is imperative that we keep missions lifted above a political agenda and we jointly commit our influence and resources to that end."

Jackson told the California Southern Baptist on the issue of SBC-CBF relations: "I don't think I'm a knight in shining armor to alleviate all the problems between the SBC and the CBF. I do have a responsibility to resolve misunderstandings and assure them we will send candidates if they qualify like anyone else."

Jackson rejected the notion FMB trustees are refusing to appoint missionary candidates from
(See CHAIRMAN on page 8)

Patterson names new profs for Wake Forest

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Signaling a time of "adjustment" and "wonderful potential," Paige Patterson, new president of Southeastern Seminary, has announced seven new faculty members at the Wake Forest Southern Baptist Convention-related seminary.

Six of them are former faculty members at Criswell College, where Patterson was president before taking Southeastern's helm.

Patterson said one of the new professors, Daniel Akin, also is being named to the permanent position of dean of students. Akin was dean of students at Criswell College.

The other six new teachers will serve under presidential appointments for one year, Patterson said.

Keith Eitel, new professor of missions, also will be an adviser to Patterson on accreditation and an assistant at the seminary's Drummond Center for Great Commission Studies.

Scott Tatum, new visiting professor of preaching and pastoral ministry, is a retired faculty member from Southwestern.

Other new faculty members formerly on Criswell College's faculty are:

Gerald Cowen, professor of pastoral theology. Cowen holds an undergraduate degree from Mississippi College in Clinton and master's and doctorate degrees in theology from New Orleans Seminary. He has done additional studies at Regent's Park College in Oxford, England.

Paul Carlisle, assistant professor of pastoral theology who will teach counseling. Carlisle holds an undergraduate degree from East Texas Baptist University in Marshall and master of science and doctor of education degrees in counseling from East Texas State University in Commerce.

David Lanier, associate professor of New Testament. Lanier holds an undergraduate degree from North Georgia College in Dahlonega, a master of arts from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and master of divinity and Ph.D. degrees from Southwestern.

Gary Galeotti, professor of Old Testament. Galeotti holds an undergraduate degree from Oklahoma Baptist University at Shawnee and master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern.

FMB, WMU board reps meet to discuss future

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Representatives from Southern Baptists' Foreign Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union met July 27 for a discussion about the past and future relationship between the two entities.

The dialogue came at the request of FMB trustees who voted in June to meet with WMU leaders to discuss the 104-year relationship between the FMB, a mission-sending entity, and WMU, a mission-supporting entity. The dialogue included four WMU leaders and four FMB leaders.

The three-hour dialogue ended with two agreements: that John Jackson, FMB trustee chairman, initiate dialogue with leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and that the FMB and WMU continue the dialogue. The CBF is an organization of Southern Baptist churches formed in protest to the Southern Baptist Convention's current leadership and direction.

Much of the discussion centered on the perceptions surrounding recent actions taken by both the FMB and WMU.

FMB leaders asked pointed questions about WMU's relationship with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

WMU has been asked to consider providing some missions education materials tailored for the Fellowship, FMB leaders were told. However, the decision to produce those materials has not been made, WMU leaders said.

WMU has not been asked to initiate or promote a missions offering for the Fellowship, contrary to

rumor, the WMU leaders said. Concerns about the FMB's relationship with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship were raised by the WMU leaders. Jackson was asked by the WMU leaders to initiate a dialogue with Fellowship leaders and, specifically, to underscore the FMB's willingness to appoint people as career missionaries who have been involved with the Fellowship.

Pointed questions were asked by WMU leaders concerning the replacement of FMB President R. Keith Parks. Parks will take early retirement effective Oct. 30 after a 38-year career in foreign missions. He has cited philosophical differences with trustees in his retirement decision.

The WMU leaders urged the appointment not be a politically motivated appointment. Instead, they asked that FMB trustees seek someone with a history of career missionary service.

Both WMU and FMB leaders agreed healing within the controversy-torn Southern Baptist Convention will only be possible if discussions such as this one continue.

Representing the FMB were Parks, Jackson and trustees Karen Gilbert and Phyllis Randall. Gilbert is the board's recording secretary. Randall chairs the trustee mission personnel committee.

Representing WMU at the request of national WMU President Carolyn Miller were national WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien and board members Virginia Caughman of South Carolina and Gerry Dunkin of Texas. Miller also attended the meeting.

Adrian Rogers, Walley slated as Nov. convention speakers

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Convention, meeting at First Church, Jackson, Nov. 10-11, will feature a three-time Southern Baptist Convention president as closing speaker.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, elected SBC president in 1980, '87, and '88, will speak to the MBC on Nov. 11 at 7:45 p.m.

Mississippi Baptist Convention is the annual business meeting for the 2,000 participating Southern Baptist churches in the state. Business matters will include adoption of an annual budget which will exceed \$20 million. And likely there will be a discussion of the fate of the Netwon campus of now closed Clarke College, currently in the hands of Mississippi College trustees.

Besides Rogers, speakers include W.W. Walley of Waynesboro who will give the presidential address at 10:55 a.m. during the opening session of the convention on Nov. 10; and W. A. "Sonny" Adkins, pastor of Forest Church, Forest, who will deliver the annual convention sermon at 10:55 a.m., Nov. 11.

Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will lead a convention emphasis during the evening session of Nov. 10.

The Bible Treasure speaker will be John Phillips. The Bible Treasure is a traditional series of devotionals given during the morning and afternoon sessions of the convention.

Phillips, a resident of Raleigh,

N.C., is a former assistant director of the Moody Correspondence School in Chicago and a former Moody network broadcaster. He is the author of more than two dozen books.

Additionally, there will be a series of Christian testimonies and music guests. The music guests include the sanctuary choir of First Church, Waynesboro, where Walley, a physician, attends; the Mississippi Singing Churchmen; the chancel choir of Forest Church, Forest; the William Carey College Chorale; and a mass senior adult choir.

The Convention is preceded on Monday, Nov. 9, by a Lay Missions Conference and a Pastors' Conference, both taking place at First Church, Jackson.

Asians must reach Asians, Baptist leaders in Singapore declare

SINGAPORE (BP) — Declaring "Asians must evangelize Asians," more than 800 Baptist leaders from 16 Asian countries met in Singapore for the 4th Asian Baptist Congress and shared plans for evangelizing their part of the world.

"When the gospel first came to Asia, it came in Western trappings and it has never been unwrapped," Johnny V. Gumban, dean of the college of theology at Central Philippine University, said. "The gospel needs to be unwrapped in order for it to bless all of Asia."

Gumban described Asia as "a land of unfulfilled dreams" with poverty, natural disasters and repressive political conditions in various areas.

"Any Christian gospel must be concerned with the condition of the poor," Gumban said, "since two-thirds of the Asian population are people living below poverty lines." However, Gumban stressed "the poor" includes "those who lack moral, social, and spiritual well-being."

Based on the reports of evangelistic and mission work during the July 17-22 congress, Asian Baptists are showing perhaps they know best how to reach their people with the gospel. In Mynmar,

Mongolia, Nepal, Cambodia, Mizoram, India, Indonesia, Taiwan, and other countries, Asian Baptists reported significant progress in their goal to evangelize their people by the end of the decade.

In one report, Ernest Sukirman of Indonesia said the Union of Indonesian Baptist Churches already had planted 51 churches as they moved toward a goal of 250 new churches by 1995.

Each of their 106 churches had been challenged to plant one church and build one church building by the year 2000.

In their "5+1+1 Plan," each Indonesian Baptist in the union has been challenged to pray at least five minutes a day for evangelism for the next five years; witness to one person a week; serve their local church once a week; and give 50 Rupiahs (50 cents) a day to their local church to finance the plan.

Apart from their goal of reaching Mynmar (Burma) for Christ, Burmese Baptists are taking the gospel to the northeast border of China. "Sometimes, communism did something to help Christianity," said one Burmese leader, "because the Cultural Revolution left Chinese with nothing to

believe in and now people are craving for something." He reported 99 people had already been baptized because of their efforts in 1991.

"God is shaking Nepal," said Kevi Meru of India who reported all imprisoned Christians had been freed with the restoration of democracy there last year. "Nepal is open to the gospel and not very difficult to win for the Lord," he said.

Meru reported there were Japanese and Korean missionaries already working in Nepal and there are about 100,000 Nepalese Christians in India, many in Nagaland.

"I am challenging my people to go to Nepal and preach," Meru said, "but many more workers are needed. Nepal needs help spiritually and economically."

Workers, prayer, and resources were repeatedly called for. In a congress evangelism commitment, Asian Baptists determined to see "a new level of cooperation and evangelism in Asia" and committed themselves to one another "as partners in the Gospel."

"What talent we have in the (Asian Baptist Federation)!" said Billy Kim, pastor of a 4,000-member South Korean church who was elected as president to lead the nearly 3 million Baptists represented in the 18-member ABF. "We're right on target and I believe the Lord will do something great." Kim challenged Asian Baptists to "pray, pray, pray."

"There are billions of people in our region today who have never heard the gospel and are unreached," Norman B. Cheung said in his final address as ABF president. "This indebtedness cannot be discharged by a congress resolution. It is and must be personal. We must ask God to give us a vision and a call to the lost world in which we live."

Correction

An article on Camp Garaywa ("Mississippi Baptist camps bring CP gifts home") in the Baptist Record's July 23 issue was incorrect.

The article stated that Camp Garaywa is "fully funded by Cooperative Program gifts." That is not accurate. Camp Garaywa draws funding from several sources: the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering, fees charged to campers, and

WMU Special Day Offering

The camping facility and its operating expenses are paid for primarily through the state missions offering and campers' fees, but the summer program planning and year-round educational conferences are paid for through Cooperative Program gifts.

We hope the mis-statement of funding specifics did not mislead our readers.



Summer is conference time

GLORIETA, N. M. — Vonda Flemons, right, a member of Big Creek Church, Big Creek, Miss., practices for a Bible drill demonstration with other state convention winners during the Discipleship Leadership Training Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, July 4-10. Youth Bible Drill is a joint project of Baptist state conventions and the Sunday School Board. (BSSB photo by Linda Lawson)

Directors of missions receive recognition

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Four directors of associational missions were honored during home missions conferences this year.

Dub Hughes of Big Sky and Yellowstone associations in Montana was recognized for his work as town and country director of missions for the Western United States. Hughes has worked in Montana since 1975, helping the association grow from nine to 50 churches.

Hughes was a pastor in his native state of Mississippi until 1958 when he began working in North and South Dakota. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

William E. East was honored for

his metropolitan director of missions work for the western United States. He works in Currituck County Baptist Association in Bakersfield, Calif.

Doc Lindsey was recognized for metropolitan director of missions work in the eastern United States. He has worked in the Greater Detroit Baptist Association three years.

John Dent of Beaver Dam Association in Seneca, S.C., was honored for his town and country director of missions work for the eastern United States.

The awards are presented annually by the Home Mission Board associational missions division.

Education Commission meets, hears reports

The Education Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, meeting in Gulfport July 31, heard from three colleges. Ron Kirkland, pastor of First, Amory, and chairman of the Commission, presided over all sessions. The meeting was held at William Carey College, Gulf Coast branch.

Carey College reported the number of church-related vocation students was up 63%, or a total of 83. Its fall enrollment was 1,672 students with the non-duplicated student head count being 2,561 for the 12-month period. That figure includes the Coast campus (420) and the New Orleans campus.

Blue Mountain College had 529 students (non-duplicated head count); 63 of those are church-related vocation students. Kandace Williams, recently chosen to represent Mississippi in the Miss America contest, is a student at Blue Mountain.

Mississippi College reported 5,185 students (non-duplicated head count) for the past year. Church-related vocation students there numbered 200 for the year. Six hundred sixty-seven students graduated last year.

The Commission also voted to request the Convention Board to express concern about the potentially adverse effects if New Orleans Seminary offers a baccalaureate degree. It requests New Orleans Seminary to postpone and reconsider its action, which would affect Mississippi Baptist colleges and relationships with other Baptist entities.

MC begins fall semester

Mississippi College opens its 167th session Aug. 22.

Registration will take place Aug. 25 for transfers, 8:30-11 a.m. in the A. E. Wood Coliseum. Freshman students report for registration at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 25. Upperclassmen will begin registration Aug. 26. Graduate and undergraduate students attending evening school only will register in the A. E. Wood Coliseum Aug. 24, 4:30-7 p.m.

For more information, call (601) 925-3240 (for undergraduates) or 925-3225 (for graduates).

Mississippi church tackles large BookLink project

By William H. Perkins Jr.

A small, ambitious church in rural Monroe County is the first in the Southern Baptist Convention to serve as a receiving and shipping point for donated religious materials headed for worldwide mission fields under the BookLink program of the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators (NFBE).

"The church has authorized our participation, and we are eager to do it," said Dennis Smithey, pastor of 126-member Central Grove Church, located just off Highway 45 between Aberdeen and Tupelo.

Church members met at the church on the night of July 23 with Hal Buchanan of Tupelo, retired dean of education at Delta State University and executive director of BookLink.

Buchanan, who helped found NFBE and later the BookLink program, reported that since the program was authorized by the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1988, almost 60,000 pieces of material weighing 11.4 tons and valued at over \$137,000 have been shipped to 52 countries and five U.S. states.

BookLink is also affiliated with Books for the World, a project inspired by long-time Southern Baptist leader Owen Cooper of Yazoo City. Books for the World helps BookLink in many ways, he said, including assistance with postage costs.

Tom Booth, Sunday School director at Central Grove Church and new director of shipping for BookLink, said an article in a Tupelo newspaper sparked his interest in the program. He contacted Buchanan and approached Smithey about getting the church involved.

On the night of the meeting with Buchanan, boxes and bags of donated materials lined the walls of the church's fellowship hall. Buchanan busily went about the business of explaining the intricacies of international mail to the 15 people in attendance.

"One of the problems we have is that when we start going through the books, the material is so interesting that we stop to read it," he said.

Using heavy kraft paper donated by a Tupelo manufacturer, Buchanan carefully wrapped dozens of used Baptist Hymnals and explained how to ensure the packages endure the rigors of

rough handling and international customs inspections.

garbage bag (to protect against wetness), and finally into heavy-duty international mail sacks with the necessary markings and tags.

The first Central Grove Church shipment is bound for Nigeria missionary Alma Rohm. Rohm, who has received previous BookLink shipments, has been so accepted into Nigerian life that the locals have given her the high honorary title of "Chief."

In a recent letter to Buchanan, Rohm described the reaction of Nigerian Christians to the previous shipments.

"I wish all of you who have sent books could be here to see the delight on the faces of those who will attend our Nationwide Baptist Music Workshop in Iwo on August 3-7 when they are able to get a hymnbook with music, not just words!"

Of those 28 M-bags, [some] came from people I have never seen who got the news in ways I do not know. As I thanked the Lord for all your labor and the high postage fees you paid, I also thanked Him for the tie that binds all our hearts in Christian love. Truly the fellowship we have in the Spirit is wonderful, and as I sit surrounded by all these boxes, I know myself to be surrounded by your love and lifted to heaven by your prayers. Colossians 2:5.

Yours in His Service, Love,
Chief (Miss) Alma H. Rohm

(excerpts)

He then slipped the tightly-wrapped hymnals into a household

church's involvement is beginning to blossom. He recently took

receipt of his first delivery of donated material, which arrived from Hope Church in Philadelphia.

There are many ways for churches and church groups to contribute to the success of BookLink, Buchanan said.

"The opportunities for 'hands-on' mission efforts for all ages are too numerous to list them all," he said.

The greatest demand, however, is for donation of religious books and other publications that can be used to answer the needs of Southern Baptist missionaries, national pastors, church planters, teachers, libraries, and seminaries around the world. Donations of money and supplies to help with the costs of the program are also accepted, Buchanan added.

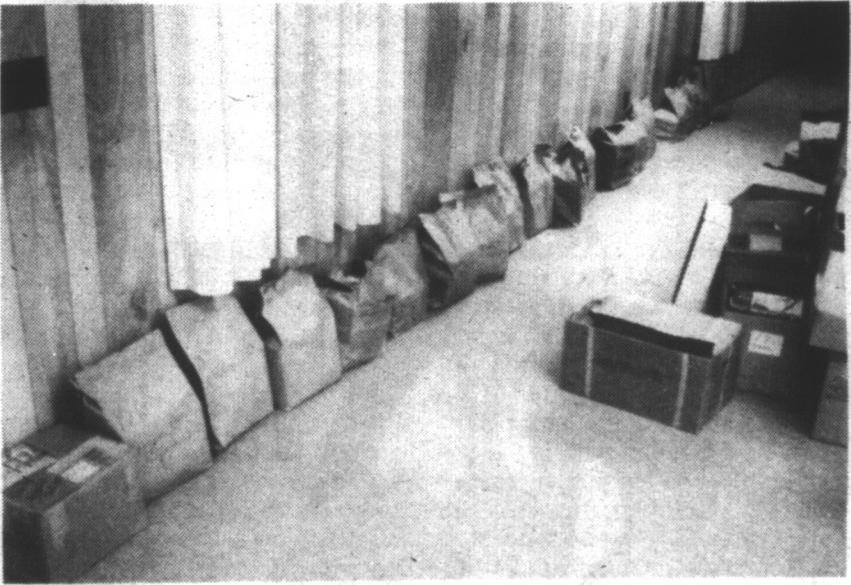
Donations should be sent to Tom Booth, BookLink Director of Shipping, Route 1, Box 217, Aberdeen, MS 39730. For more information on the program itself, Buchanan can be contacted at 2121 Briar Ridge Road, Tupelo, MS 38801.

Buchanan has a challenge by which he lives that also neatly sums up his vision for BookLink.

"The greatest efforts are the sustaining ones which provide resources to our brothers who keep crying out for help. God is at work! Help us glorify Him through this worldwide effort," he said.



Books and other materials donated to the BookLink program (right) line the walls of the fellowship hall at Central Grove Church in Monroe County, which has volunteered to serve as the first receiving and shipping point for the program. At left, Hal Buchanan (left), executive director of BookLink, provides guidance as Tom Booth (second from left), church Sunday School director and new director of shipping for BookLink, tries his hand at packaging old Baptist Hymnals for shipment to Nigeria. Observing the process are Beverly Haney (second from right), church pianist, and Susan Harrison (right), church organist. (Baptist Record photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Food & Fellowship: explore healthy alternatives to fat, salt

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — Baptists like to get together for worship, prayer, study, and fellowship. They also like to get together and eat.

The good news is worship, prayer, study, and fellowship are sugar-free, fat-free, sodium-free, and healthy for everyone. The bad news is, when church activities involve meals or refreshments, individuals on restrictive diets may be unintentionally excluded or limited in participation.

About 14 million Americans have diabetes, according to American Diabetes Association statistics.

Thousands of others have been diagnosed with some form of cardiovascular disease.

For many of these individuals, a carefully controlled diet is not just a matter of attractiveness or physical fitness but a matter of life and death.

Nutritionists estimate in a typical group of people at a church dinner or other such function, one-third could eat whatever is served with no problem; another one-third could benefit by watching their intake of fat, sodium and sugar; and the remaining one-third would definitely need to be on low-fat,

low-sodium, and low-sugar diets.

Not everyone feels comfortable with dietary restrictions, according to Alice Lumbley, dietary director for the Baptist Home retirement center at Ironton, Mo. Some feel sensitive about asking for anything different from the regular fare offered, she said.

An informal survey of several churches with Wednesday evening fellowship meals indicated most don't offer any special menu for diabetics or others on special diets. One church offers a low-calorie plate; several make a salad bar available. Some noted they have

members who bring their own food and come for the fellowship.

Reducing fat is a "common thread" in most diets, including diabetic diets, noted Cathy Bowey, outpatient dietitian at Missouri Baptist Medical Center in St. Louis. Tips for cutting down on fat include:

— Substitute unsaturated fats for saturated fats in preparing recipes. For instance, use one cup of margarine or three-fourths cup of vegetable oil instead of one cup of butter or shortening; use one cup of low-fat yogurt or blended low-fat cottage cheese instead of one cup of sour cream.

— Trim visible fat from meats. Refrigerate soups, stews, and gravies and skim off the fat before reheating and serving.

— People with dentures may have trouble chewing some meats and raw fruits or vegetables, Lumbley reminded. If these not-so-tender items are on the menu, it would be helpful to provide some softer options as well.

Using a white sauce as a base for casseroles instead of canned soup also will help cut down salt, noted Cindy Fluekiger, chief dietitian at Baptist Medical Center in Kansas City.



Letters to the editor



The Baptist Record welcomes letters to the editor. Your opinion is important. We do suggest you stay with issues, not personalities. We reserve the right to edit letters. No more than 250 words, please — readers will read a short letter before they will read a long one. No form letters or unsigned letters will be printed. Please allow 90 days to pass before submitting your next letter. Include your name, address, day time telephone number, and church membership.

Affirms masonry as a cult

Editor:

I am writing in response to a letter, "Lies about Masons?" which was printed in the July 23 issue. An organization does not have to be satanic in order to be considered a cult.

The writer's statement that Masons do not accept atheists is correct, however, an atheist is one who believes there is NO god. Masons will accept men who place their faith in any god: Buddha, Mohammed, even Joseph Smith, Plato, Socrates, etc. (recall the Maunday Thursday ritual on the Thursday before Easter) because these men are seen as having obtained divinity; and divinity

denotes a god of some sort.

I wish his letter had stated how proud the writer is to be a Christian, regardless of his membership in a Southern Baptist church or in the Masonic lodge, but it did not. So I assume it is his allegiance to the lodge that is his top priority. Has the god of Freemasonry, Jabulon (a conglomeration of gods), become his god? Has his mind been saturated with the propaganda set forth in the masonic periodical, *The New Age*?

I do commend the Masons for their efforts in the crippled children's hospital, the burn center, and the orphanage (every organization needs a good image), however, I have also seen (and firsthand I might add) much of masonic money misused through the years: elaborate temples, shrines and cos-

tumes, magnificent balls where liquor flowed, and fantastic blow-outs and parades for initiates and their families during weekend-long functions.

I am sorry that many well-intentioned and intelligent men have been slowly turned from understanding the gospel of salvation through faith (not works such as living on the compass and square) in Jesus Christ alone. Sincerity in religion, rites, or worship of a god is not the message of the Bible. "The Grand Architect of the Universe" can refer to almost any god you choose: Zeus, Lucifer, or the sun.

If the writer is a Christian and fails to tithe, he will only hurt himself, not the church. God doesn't need his money or anyone else's to do his kingdom's work.

Mollie H. Miller
Grenada

Amen to letter

Editor:

I say a loud, "Amen" to Larry Thompson's letter to the editor in the July 23 issue of the *Baptist Record*. I have been reading of the proposed special investigation of the Masonic Order for some weeks. It makes me boil to think someone that is ignorant of the facts can make statements as have been made concerning the Masons and it be swallowed.

These men that are doing this may have been black-balled upon applying for membership in the Blue Lodge of Masons. If so, they must have had some un-Christian fault. From the first knock on the door to the last test, masonry is taken out of the holy Bible. That is the one that Baptists use, isn't it? I do!

I have been a Mason for 34 years, and a Baptist for 13 years.

This letter and the others remind me of some football players. They squawk like a sea gull and when pinned down, they say, "Oh, no! Coach didn't say that!" The damage has been done.

Are these so-called men of God going to apologize to the Masonic Order publicly or in the paper when they find the charges false? No, I'll bet they will quietly slip away.

Foyce Cox
McAdams

Masonry will cease, not church

Editor:

I would like to ask the gentleman from Brooklyn two questions concerning his letter, "Lies about Masons?" Sir, 1) who died to save your soul, and 2) which institution is Christ coming back to take to heaven as his bride?

Regardless of who is right in this matter I would hate to think that you would turn your back on the lost souls around the world to support an organization that will be

one of many that will cease to exist at the end of time.

As to the matter of your tithes being used in the ways you mentioned for the various masonic areas of work, our foreign missionaries do those same things and much more, not to mention all the areas of ministry we as Southern Baptists participate in here in America.

Charles D. Wallace
Summit

Ticket is Baptist, but liberal

Editor:

After reading the article in the July 16 edition of the *Baptist Record* concerning Clinton and Gore being the "first all-Baptist ticket," I had to respond. First, because the article makes it sound that it is a wonderful thing that the Democratic presidential nominee, Gov. Bill Clinton, and his vice-presidential running mate, Sen. Al Gore, are Baptists. Secondly, because it read as if the Record was even bragging a bit and, perhaps, even endorsing Gov. Clinton and Sen. Gore.

Frankly, when I found out that Gov. Clinton and Sen. Gore held membership in the Baptist Church I was very hurt, for Jesus' sake and for our denomination. Satan must know his time is at hand. I am persuaded by the reading of the holy Scriptures that Gov. Clinton and Sen. Gore are definitely "liberals."

Legislation would recognize the homosexual relationship on an equal basis with traditional marriage which God established—one man, one woman. This legislation would mandate no exclusion of homosexuals in any area. Gov. Clinton and Sen. Gore are vigorously romancing the homosexual community.

Legislation would give children the "right" to sue their parents. This undermines parental authority. Mrs. Clinton was, up until a few months ago, heavily involved in the Children's Defense Fund.

Legislation would give top priority to plants and animals. In effect, they will have dominion over mankind. Sen. Gore in his book, *Earth in the Balance*, recommends that the U.S. spend 2% GNP to promote a global environmental policy. That's billions of dollars! He also advocates population control.

In 1989 and 1990, the National Taxpayers Union rated Sen. Gore the biggest spender in the Senate. He has proposed even higher taxes than Gov. Clinton.

Teenage pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, divorce rates, unmarried couples living together, violent crimes have all soared since the removal of prayer in schools in 1962. SAT scores have dramatically dropped. John Adams said, "Our Constitution was made only for moral and religious people...It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." This year there

has been talk to change our Constitution. What will we do about it?

Time will reveal what we did.
Glynis Madison
Pascagoula

Has never seen satanism

Editor:

I have been a Mason since 1949. My dad and granddad was a Mason. I am serving now as master of the lodge for the second time and I am also a Shriner, and I am proud of it. I have never seen anyone worship satanism, or any other cult. All I have ever seen is brotherly love with one another, which I can't say about some members of the SBC. I have never put my lodge or my family before God. I have been in a Southern Baptist church all my life. I have put thousands of dollars to support its work. I gave it to further God's Word and do his will.

The first president of the United States, George Washington, was a Mason, and many since him. Fifty-three men out of 56 men that signed the Declaration of Independence were Masons. Therefore, if the Masons are a cult, that means our country has not been led by God, but by Satan and on our money, "In God We Trust" is a mockery.

Tommy Roberts
Jayess

Carter preceded "all-Baptist" ticket

Editor:

Referring to the article in the July 16th issue of the *Baptist Record*, in which Greg Warner, editor of the Associated Baptist Press, tells us that Clinton and Gore give voters the first all-Baptist ticket, I say, "Hogwash." He must have forgotten that we had a president elected in 1976 who literally led America to the brink of despair. By the way, he too was Baptist. So I say to Mr. Warner, and all other Baptists, "Wake Up," and let's don't make the same mistake again and get a double dose. I suggest to Mr. Warner that he has tarnished the word "Baptist," unless he too believes, like these two liberals do, in an unnatural lifestyle, and abortion. It seems they are out to do whatever it takes to get them elected. Also, I have been taught that these things they believe in are the areas that the Baptists always took a strong stand against. Therefore, I will not be casting my vote for these two unworthy liberals.

Mrs. A. J. Grantham
Richland

Editor's note: We have had numerous letters on the Clinton/Gore issue, and on the Masons. The time has come to delay printing any more of either. The results of the Home Mission Board study will be out within a year.



Mississippians volunteer at Southern

Jack Lovelace (standing), Mitch Wells, and his son Jeremie installed a door at Southern Seminary as part of the Louisville, Ky., school's campus restoration project. They were with a volunteer team from First Church, Beaumont, the first Mississippi congregation to participate in the restoration project. The three-year program aims at addressing \$8 million in deferred maintenance needs by utilizing volunteer missions teams from Southern Baptist churches. Joe Strahan, missions chairman of the Perry County Baptist Association, organized the Mississippi team.

HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 6, 1992

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

ZIMBABWE PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES TO MEET NEEDS

by Bill Hardy

Consultant, Zimbabwe Partnership
Evangelism Department, MBCB

"I felt so strange. They gave me the best that they had." These were the words of one of the volunteers returning from an evangelistic mission to Zimbabwe. The group had stayed in the home of an honored deacon. The deacon and wife gave up their bed and slept on the floor. After the final service every member of the congregation gave a personal gift to each team member.

This is an example of the warm-hearted response of the people of Zimbabwe who are by nature kind, generous, loving, and unselfish. It is no wonder that there is such an immediate and open response to the gospel. One team visited every house or hut in the village and was able to share the plan of salvation in each. Many prayed to receive Christ as Savior. To date there have been more than 1,500 first-time professions of faith reported by the five groups that have been over.

Water is still very short in Zimbabwe. One whole town (Masvingo) is without water three days per week. The level of Lake Kariba on the Zambia River has dropped so low that some of the electricity generating turbines are above water and cannot function. Recently three churches had to withdraw from the evangelistic crusade because there was not enough water for the guests to come and stay.

Southern Baptists are using World Hunger funds to feed around 40,000 persons in the southern part of Zimbabwe. These plans were put into effect following the foresighted planning of Ed Moses, missionary in Harare. The amount of corn, wheat, and salt being given out would equal an eighty-five car freight train. Two BSU students from Texas A&M are assisting Ron Langston, missionary, and 25 national pastors with the distribution.

Plans for a sorghum grain project are underway for November and December of 1992. Farno Green of Ruth is working closely with the Zimbabwe Mission to choose 100 farmers to test new methods of planting and tilling in order to fully utilize every drop of moisture that falls. The Foreign Mission Board is cooperating with the possible appointment of a couple in Texas who have the training and experience to pursue this project for two years.

Pray for the rains to come to Zimbabwe this fall. Their rainy months are November and December and that is

"Zimbabwe Partnership..." cont. on back page

Disciple Youth
Conference
August 7-8, 1992
FBC, Laurel

- Disciple Youth: 10 hours of Personal Experience
- Begins — 6:30 p.m., Friday, August 7
- Concludes — 5:00 p.m., Saturday, August 8
- \$45.00 per person

For reservations please call — Robin Nichols, 968-3800,
ext. 3888

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHAPLAIN'S RETREAT

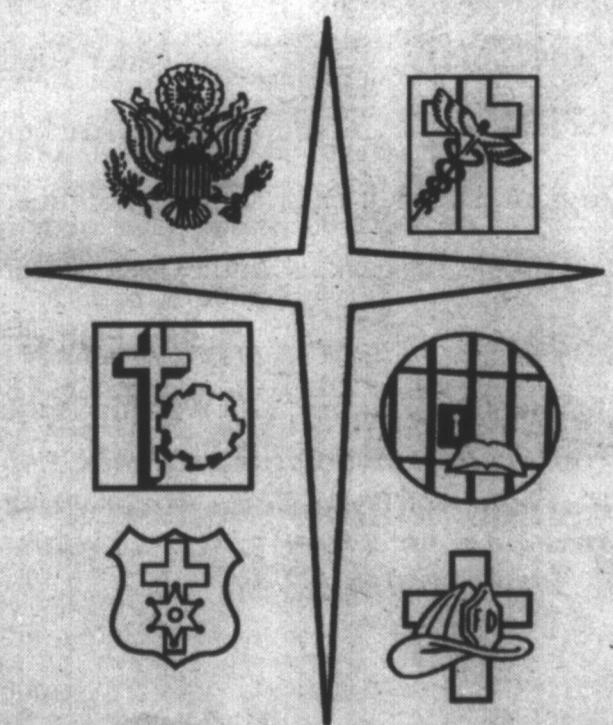
William P. Osborn will address the subject of stress at the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Retreat at Twin Lakes Retreat at Florence, Sept. 11-12.

Osborn is a Christian family psychologist in independent practice, directing the clinical services at Sassafras Hill Counseling Center in Oak Grove Community near Hattiesburg. He is a member of Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg.

He has been involved in pioneer missions on the West Coast and in Mexico and served as an adjunct professor at Golden Gate Seminary.

Presenting music for the retreat will be "Soldiers Again."

For information regarding this retreat contact Richard Brogan, Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB, 968-3800, ext. 3961.



LAST CHANCE!

at
Sunday School
Training

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
September 11-12, 1992

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

12:30-5:00 p.m.	Registration
2-4:00 p.m.	Beach Activities
4:00 p.m.	Faculty Meeting
5:15 p.m.	Dinner
6:30-8:00 p.m.	General Session
8:15-9:15 p.m.	Session I
9:30 p.m.	Ice cream fellowship

SATURDAY

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	Session II
9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.	Session III
11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	General Session
12:15 p.m.	Lunch

Leadership for these conferences includes:

Carolle Green	All Preschool leadership
Tom McMinn	All Children's leadership
Ronnie Falvey	Younger Youth
Mark Lott	Older Youth
Wayne Edwards	Adult Teachers
Jeff Ingram	Adult Dept Dir./Dept. Officers
Rhett Whitley	Adult Class officers
Bob Mathis	General Officers
Art Burcham	Worship leader

For housing information contact Frank Simmons. Phone: 601/452-7261. For program information contact Sunday School Department. Phone: 601/968-3800.

CHURCH RENEWAL

**By Sidney Ellis,
Church Renewal Consultant**

The renewal strategy is to awaken the church to its present needs. Today's church is troubled. As indifference toward the church increases and there is a lack of devotion on the part of many members, the church is becoming less and less influential upon today's society. It has a form of religion but not power.

The real problem with the church lies within a majority of its members. Although professing to know Jesus, our daily walk shows little commitment to his cause. We show little concern for those who touch our lives daily, and therefore, we do not reach out to them and minister to their needs. Our marketplace ministry is not what it should be.

Most of the laity today do not realize that we are ministers. The renewal strategy attempts to teach that all Christians are called and all Christians are gifted for the ministries of the church. The pastor is called as the equiper to equip the laity for the ministries that God has for each church. (Eph. 4:11-12)

The Lay Renewal Weekend, the first phase of the Church Renewal Journey, calls Christians to the kind of spiritual renewal that leads to a deeper knowledge of God and to a total commitment to him. It is a time when we engage in a self-examination and renew our own personal covenant. This is done through the tool of listening to others share what Christ is doing in their lives as they share their personal testimonies and as church members share together in small groups. There is just something unique about this sharing that God uses to allow us to see ourselves as he sees us.

Renewal is not a once-in-a-life-time occasion but a never-ending task. All God's people need periodical renewal. Salvation is everlasting, but a meaningful, living relationship with God needs constant attention. For this reason, we need to plan into our schedules periodic times for renewal both for the individual and for the church.

*For more information contact the Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, for a copy of **Itinerary For the Journey Into Lifestyle Evangelism and Ministry**.*

REPORT FROM FIRST BAPTIST, NEW ALBANY

Our Lay Renewal Weekend has been thus far the highlight of the year. After many months of thought and prayer, we felt our church was ready to set aside 42 hours for intensive involvement in focusing our attention on love and concern for each other. After our General Chairman, Wayne Moore, was elected, our church staff met with him to select the 13 group leaders so necessary to have. Then the entire membership was assigned to a group which seemed to relate to their spiritual gifts. Months before the weekend, the Coordinator, Sidney Ellis, from our state Brotherhood Department, carefully guided us through the descriptive Lay Renewal Weekend Preparation Manual.

Prayer, prayer, and more prayer went into our preparation as prayer meetings were conducted in homes during the final three weeks before the weekend. A 24-hour prayer vigil was also done just before the weekend. When team members (more than 60) began to arrive, we knew God was about to move in our church.

Our people responded with fervor and enthusiasm. From the opening evening meal in the Family Life Center to the conclusion in the four-hour testimony service Sunday evening, our people were truly blessed and filled with joy and love. Those who viewed the Sunday evening service on television could not cease to speak of the great service at First Baptist on Sunday night. So many of them were blessed.

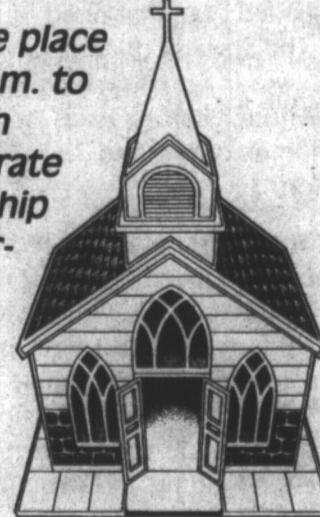
The Lay Renewal Weekend reached people none of our revival efforts reached. We will continue to have revivals, of course, but we will also include the small group concept and the Discipleship Weekend suggested after the Lay Renewal Weekend. I heartily recommend the Lay Renewal Weekend.

Tom Sumrall, pastor

SMALL CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The next Small Church Leadership Conference will take place on Saturday, September 19, at First Church, Newton, 8:30 a.m. to noon. The conference is designed especially for leadership in churches with 150 or fewer enrolled in Sunday School. Separate sessions will be for pastors, Sunday School leaders, Discipleship Training leaders, Woman's Missionary Union leaders, Brotherhood leaders, and Church Music leaders.

All small membership church leaders located in the east central section of the state are urged to call your Association office for more information on attending this conference.



MISSISSIPPI PRAYERGRAM

August 6-20, 1992

Pray for the 100,000 English-speaking internationals in the inner city of Paris, France. Pray for the English-language Baptist Church in Paris as they seek to reach the international community.

Pray for the Nigerian Baptist Convention which has a missions plan called "Operation Reach All." "Pray for the Christians of Nigeria in a country where Islam's influence and control is rapidly growing."

Thank God that revival has begun in Lebanon. Many new believers are in the churches, helping faithful church members to realize the influence they have had during these past years of war.

Pray for the work in Providence, Pa., located in an area where there are 1 million unchurched people. Pray for Troy Massey, director of missions in

South Central Baptist Association. Also pray for the 60,000 Hispanics in the area, who have only three works to meet their needs.

Pray for Baptists in Minnesota/Wisconsin Convention. Otha and Louise Winningham have served there as executive director (Otha) and editor of the state paper (Louise). Thank God for the Winningshams and pray for their successors.

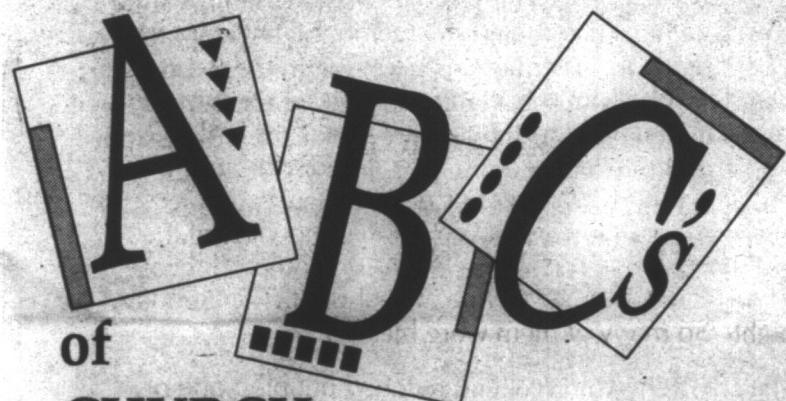
Pray for the Mississippi River Ministry Convocation to be held August 7-8, 1992. Seven states that border on the Mississippi River will make plans for a ministry to persons who are in need physically, mentally and emotionally, as well as spiritually.

Pray for Mississippi's participation in the Mississippi River ministry. Pray for the persons who will volunteer to minister in Mississippi to Mississippians and for the networking of volunteers who will come to Mississippi from other states.

Thank God for the student summer missionaries who served at home and abroad. Most of them will be at home by the end of the second week in August. Pray that their witness by word and deed will be confirmed by the Holy Spirit, even after their departure.

Pray for the numerous volunteer teams from Mississippi who are going out during the summer months for many types of projects: teaching, Back-Yard Bible Clubs, construction, medical, well-drilling etc. Pray for their safety and good health as they teach and learn.

Mississippi Baptist PRAYERLINE 969-PRAY



of CHURCH BUDGETING

By David Michel,
Director of Stewardship Department, MBCB

How can we make dollars-and-cents decisions that will lead us to genuine spiritual growth? How can we get our church out of the same fixed-item routine every year? How can we convince old Brother Mean-swell to consider a new approach to budget promotion? How can we get the finance committee to be concerned about more than the bottom line? These are difficult questions, which reflect the tension that exists between financial and spiritual ministry. Church leaders today expect the budgeting process to play a meaningful role in the larger ministry of stewardship development.

The **ABC's of Church Budgeting and Promotion** may help satisfy your spiritual expectations for the budgeting process, and it may help your church answer the difficult financial questions of the nineties. The planbook is a new release from the Stewardship Commission offering suggestions for budget promotion in 1992-93. The **ABC's** actually refer to a series of planning meetings, with each letter representing a step in the budget development process.

- A- Advance Planning and Evaluation
- B- Budget Preparation
- C- Cultivating Commitment in Giving
- D- Development Projects for Growing Stewards

• GETTING ACQUAINTED

Several features commend the workbook style publication for church use. First, it is functional in approach. When budget committees meet, they like to crunch numbers. So, the first exercise in the book calls for a four-year analysis of the church's giving history along with goals for next year's budget. But the booklet is also comprehensive in scope, requiring the dollars-and-cents guys to discuss missions and ministry priorities as line items. Comparing a church's financial practices to a "Stewardship Standard" helps church leaders discover the shortcomings of a bottom-line-only approach.

The **ABC's** is a flexible tool, which can be adapted to fit most church situations. It contains everything needed for basic planning, but refers to extensive supporting materials which can be added to enrich a church's budget promotion program.

The methodology recommended by the **ABC's** is relational. The budget committee is asked to include a large number of key church leaders in the advance planning stage of budget development. This encourages blending the concerns of money and ministry, and helps establish priorities in spending and program planning.

• SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

The first letter in the stewardship alphabet is **P** for prayer. Overcoming selfishness is a spiritual struggle which requires lifelong discipline. Church financial difficulties have to do with selfishness and require diligent prayer. Each meeting agenda in the booklet begins with a devotional and prayer suggestion. The

supporting tracts, posters, and Bible study materials are written around a biblical theme from II Corinthians 8:7. Mission support has a prominent place in the **ABC's** to remind church leaders that we are under the mandate of Christ through the Great Commission to make disciples all around the world.

• WHAT TO EXPECT

The organizational layout of the planbook features each basic meeting agenda followed by various worksheets and checklists. The book is like a child's busybox with each planning step calling for interactive response. One page asks the reader to follow the 1, 2, 3s; the next page may ask for fill-in-the-blanks or check-the-box. There is a calendar section and summary pages which overview the two budget promotion programs for the current year. It is designed to keep participants awake, even in the dullest meetings.

• COORDINATION

The **ABC** calendar runs from July through June, which corresponds closely to budget planning schedules in most churches. Each suggested meeting in the process falls on a time line determined by when the budget is to be adopted. With the **ABC** outline to follow, church leaders can know when to start and about how long each step requires. Appropriate enlistment and training of additional workers can be coordinated easily, once the budget adoption date is chosen.

All in all the **ABC's** offer a basic pattern in church budgeting and promotion which can be followed exactly or customized to fit specific needs and situations. Try it in your church and see if it spells enrichment for your stewardship development program.

Copies of the **ABC Planbook** can be ordered at no cost from the Stewardship Department at the Baptist Building (968-3800).

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August 22 - FBC, Oxford 9:00 a.m. - noon
August 24 - FBC, Brandon 5:45 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
August 25 - FBC, Winona 5:45 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
August 27 - FBC, Columbia 5:45 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.

CHURCHES ON MISSION

THE ASSOCIATION

Call your associational office or the Ministry Office, MBCB, for more information: 968-3800.

"Zimbabwe Partnership..." cont. from front page

the planting time. Pray that all will be in readiness and that God will send the rains. The Mississippi Agricultural Fellowship and Agricultural Missions Foundation are cooperating to see that seed and fertilizer are available for planting.

Hiram and Shirley Powell, volunteer fieldside coordinators, have completed the repairs to the leased guest house in Harare for the Mississippi Volunteers. It is a spacious, comfortable place for the teams upon arrival and departure. The Powells are on tourist permits, but have been seeking permanent work permits. Thus far the government has not seen fit to grant the permits, but is still allowing the Powells to reside in the country. Pray for God's continued provision for their staying as a vital part of this ministry.

Project requests for 1993 have come into the partnership office. The emphasis in 1993 will be on starting many churches and continued evangelistic thrusts. A 10-member team has been requested for each month next year except April, August, November and December. A total of 80 team members will be needed to follow proven plans for beginning new congregations. Perhaps an association would like to sponsor a team for one of these projects. In some cases a church would want to have a complete 10-member team from their congregation. The partnership office in the Baptist Building is always available to speak to a group, present the challenge, or just to answer questions. Mississippians have responded in the past and will continue to accept this challenge to minister where God has already prepared a harvest of souls.

HT



GULFSHORE STAFF 1992

Pictured are members of the 1992 summer staff of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. These young people, representing 15 college campuses from across Mississippi, assisted in providing the services necessary for the operation of Mississippi Baptists' conference facility. Summer attendance will be approximately 7,000 persons for the 20 conferences sponsored by the various departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and approximately 1,500 in the CENTRIFUGE camps, according to Frank Simmons, assembly manager.

FRONT ROW: (left to right) Tammie Walker, Lake; Kim Barnett, Louisville; Richelle Gray, Taylorsville; Rachel Smith, Saltillo; Kim Little, Water Valley; Jane Lee, Long Beach; Samantha Turner, Fulton; Mike

McGee, Corinth; Missy Spencer, Senatobia; Lori Hicks, Gulfport; Kimberly Brooks, Union; Lisa Brown, Clinton, Houseparent.

SECOND ROW: Amy Castillo, Senatobia; Elyse Rayburn, Blue Mountain; Jana Waller, Lambert; Terri Azlin, Etta; Cheryl Williamson, Long Beach; Leigh Henry, Vancleave; Rachel LaVigne, Picayune; Kimberly Crook, Jackson; Ashley Walker, Coldwater; Martha Hood, Shannon; Jennie Kirby, Saucier; Johnnie Sue Cooper, Maben; Melanie Fulgham, Maben; Kristie Godwin, Ovett; Bobby Browning, Clinton, Houseparent.

THIRD ROW: Gulfshore Assembly employees: Edward Fournier, Mary Red, Nell Prine, Sharon Gibson, Jackie Dockter, Margaret Holt, Freddie Cook, and Dennis Blackwell; Staffers: Sergio Trejo, El Paso, Tex.;

Keith Johnson, Chunky; Preston Everett, Clinton; Janet McMullen, Maben.

FOURTH ROW: Tom Slade, Vancleave; Mikey Breland, Picayune; Dan Loflin, Yazoo City; Ben Bryant, Bay Springs; Ken McCreary, Wesson; Holly Estes, Brookhaven; Amy Barnett, Philadelphia; Jeff Simmons, Long Beach; Marty Anderson, Saltillo; Frank Simmons, Manager.

FIFTH ROW: Wayne Cornelius, Corinth; Joe Curet, Gulfport; Dwain Overby, Columbus; Tim Starling, Baldwyn; Bob Sullender, Vicksburg; Jay McGuffee, Monticello; Kelly Wheat, Prentiss; Shane Anthens, Columbus; Anthony Charlot, employee.

NOT PICTURED: Tony Smith, Weir; Ken Bush, Meridian; Robby Burns, Baldwyn.

HT

HouseTops



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Pick up the pieces

As many post-midnight drinks of water as I've sought, I thought I could find the bathroom with my eyes closed. This time in the dark, though, I missed the door and collided with the dresser. My cherished old milk glass lamp toppled; its chimney hit the floor and scattered in zillions of splintered shards.

A schedule of activities I had planned for myself three weeks ago quickly fell and was broken into as many shards as that lamp.

July 11: Determination finished painting our house, but it also made W. D.'s sore throat so much worse I had to take him to see a doctor. Then, just as I turned on the television to watch the Miss Mississippi pageant, Mama called to say that Uncle Homer had died. This one of her five sons Grandma Washburn named for the blind Greek poet. Ironically, he did have poor eyesight, and always wore glasses. My first memory of him is the day he babysat with me when I was 3, the day my sister Betty was born. He liked to tease me about that day he arrived to find me at the table, my face mostly covered with syrup and biscuit crumbs.

Later, he majored in math at Livingston and taught school. His daughter, Katebeth, and son, Homer Junior, gave him 12 grandchildren. Always full of fun, he died with a twinkle in his eye and a joke on his lips. I loved him very much.

July 13: Leaving my husband home sick, I drove 350 miles yesterday to be at Valley, Ala., today

for the funeral. At 85, Uncle Homer was the last of Daddy's family (four brothers, one sister). Betty said, "Grandpa and Grandma have all their children home again now."

July 16: In a pleasant interlude, Betty took Mama and me to lunch at the Bullock House in Warm Springs, Georgia. I decided to stay in Alabama through the weekend for the Langley-Allen reunion.

July 17: Mama's phone was out of order all day.

July 18: While Mama and I were defrosting her freezer, the drain of her kitchen sink sprang a leak. Handyman George Taylor located a rusty pipe connection and left for town to buy another. While he was gone, I unplugged his plumber's light (to save electricity) and loaded the washing machine with dirty towels. The machine filled but would not rotate or empty. Consequently, the towels had to be washed by hand and the water dipped out with a pan. In the meantime, Mama's throat, sore since early in the week, began to hurt more and more. Her fever rose. When George replugged his light, it would not burn; he discovered that that electrical outlet had just seen its last days.

July 20: I spent this morning in LaFayette, waiting for Mama to see a doctor.

July 21: Betty drove over from Hogansville to lend a hand, as we evidently needed one. I had planned to go home today, but Mama said, "I was so sick last night, I thought you might have to come back for my funeral."

July 22: Mama, slightly better,

returned to Mississippi with me. I drove home with one hand, the other holding a Kleenex to my dripping nose.

July 23: My doctor said I had a severe sinus infection and a virus like summer flu. My head hurt so bad I thought Mama would get to be present for my funeral.

July 24: Big bumps popped up on me, and I'm scratching like crazy. Reaction to medicine? Ticks? Mosquitoes? Smallpox? (Then I remember the expedition Betty, Aunt Annie Mae, and I made through blackberry bushes, weeds, vines, and briars to Grandpa's empty, decaying house. Of course! Redbugs!)

July 27: Family members arrive for a visit I've long anticipated — Betty, Karen, Heather, Holly. Tomorrow we expect to see Susan and Emmett.

July 28: Rain cancelled our picnic plans, but the zoo and a movie made up for that. Driving through a thunderstorm, I heard Heather, 6, and Holly, 5, in the back seat practicing a call to 911. They'd been told I could not see to drive in the rain.

July 30: W. D. has a fever. Has he caught my virus?

Give up? Nope. I've lost five pounds, though not the way I'd planned. I've done a few "things for others," though not the things or people I'd expected.

That's life. Be grateful for the good. Forget the bad. Profit from adversity when you can. Sweep up the pieces. And try again.

Ministry to blended families must meet unique needs, pastor says

SWEETWATER, Texas (ABP) — Churches that want to minister to "blended" families must adapt church programs to the unique needs of those families, says one pastor whose church has done just that.

A year ago, First Church of Sweetwater, Texas, started a support group for blended families — those that result from the marriage of two persons when at least one of them has custody of a child or children from a previous relationship.

Charles McLaughlin, pastor of the church, said he never fully understood blended families until he served as facilitator of the support group.

"Until I listened to the couples and their children, I didn't comprehend how different, complex, and difficult their lives can be," he said. "As a result of this experience, I discovered more ways a church could respond to their needs."

Although not immune to the blended-family phenomenon, many churches are unaware of the statistical growth of such families, said McLaughlin, who did a doctor of ministry degree in the area of blended-family ministry.

While in 1970 one of every eight children under 18 was a stepchild, that figure rose to one in five by 1983. By the end of the 1990s, demographers predict, the blended family will be more common than the traditional nuclear family.

High rates of divorce and remarriage have produced a dramatic increase in the number of stepfamilies in the last decade, McLaughlin said. Nearly one in every two recent marriages ends in divorce, and half of these divorces involve children. Within three years after divorce, 80% of divorced persons remarry.

"Many remarried couples have the unrealistic expectation that they and the children will adjust and adapt to harmonious relationships within six months," the pastor said. "However,

research indicates that it takes approximately two-and-one-half years for the blended family to make positive adjustments that begin to produce cohesiveness and family bonding."

Of primary concern to stepfamilies, McLaughlin said, is the "desire to be accepted by church members and not be judged by them." Some stepfamilies report feeling left out or

like second-class citizens because of their status, he reported.

"The church must continue to teach against divorce as taught in Scripture," the pastor said. "However, a redemptive attitude of acceptance and help for the divorced is equally biblical."

That attitude should be demonstrated through intentional actions of support, care, and encouragement, he said.

"When the children return to the custodial home, some are extremely emotional," McLaughlin said. "The range of emotions varies, but a child generally requires some transitional time between families."

Churches also can be involved in preparing divorced and widowed people for remarriage and blended-family life, McLaughlin said. He suggested support groups for divorced persons, single parents, and teens with divorced parents. To help remarriages work, he said, churches can consider sponsoring a "Couples Night Out" on a regular basis. "The number one problem for some couples is having time to be alone with each other," he explained.

Thursday, August 6, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Summer missionaries appreciate blessings

By Tim Nicholas

What do summer missionaries learn? "I learned to appreciate what I have and learned to put my trust completely in God and be flexible," said Jennifer Shearon who worked alongside Boyd Herrington in Prentiss County this summer.

Jennifer is from Booneville and plans on attending William Carey College this fall after studying at Northeast Mississippi Junior College. Boyd, a student at Blue Mountain College, is from Mathiston.

Boyd says he has "learned to live with the Word of God — going the extra mile." He said that extra mile includes fixing other people's flat tires and serving refreshments to children.

The two summer missionaries worked for Harris Counts, director of missions in Prentiss County, leading in Vacation Bible Schools, helping in a community survey, and leading in fellowships. Additionally, Jennifer has done some office work for the association.

Counts said he wanted the two to develop leadership skills, so he asked them to complete at least one special project this summer.

Boyd chose to plan a youth rally

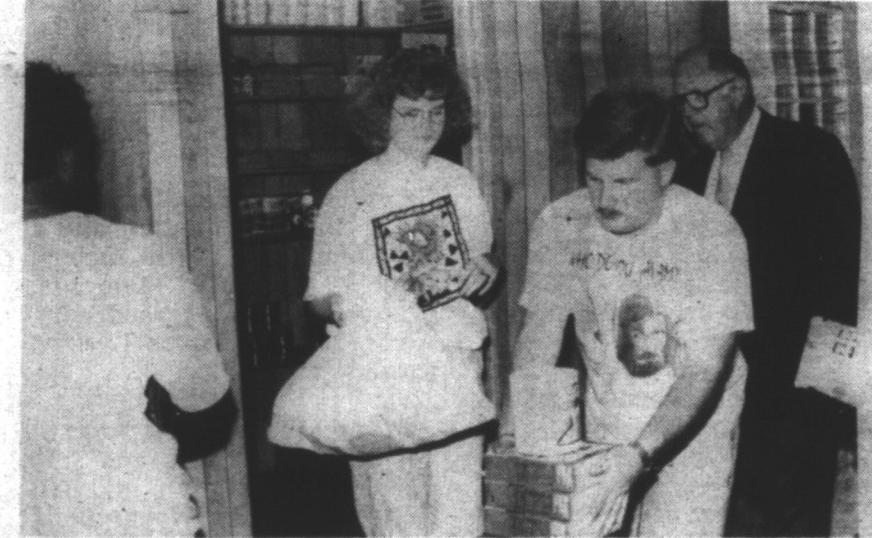
at Thrasher Church. He chose as the theme "See you at the Pole," to help enlist young people in prayer meetings at school flagpoles this fall.

Jennifer is writing a history of the association. Her father, who died when she was nine, was a minister of music. She said it was good to see his name "pop up" in various places during her research.

The survey in which Boyd and Jennifer participated, along with adults and youth from East Prentiss Church, was in an area isolated by the cutting of the Tombigbee Canal. A Probe, which is a needs discovery study, two years ago turned up the possibility of work being started in that area of the county. The recent survey showed definite interest in a Bible study being started.

The Vacation Bible Schools have been eye-openers for the summer missionaries, they say. "I've seen a lot of kids come out of their shell," says Jennifer. "They need something constant in their lives," she adds, noting that the something is Jesus Christ.

Boyd, who had the opportunity to lead three teenagers to the Lord, says of his summer, "It's hard to leave them."



Boyd Herrington, Jennifer Shearon, and Harris Counts fill an order for groceries for a family whose house burned down. The Prentiss Association, which is affiliated with the Mississippi Food Network, takes referrals from helping agencies. Mrs. R. C. Geno of East Booneville Church, along with 30 volunteers sort clothing and foodstuffs for the association. They've given out 600 pairs of blue jeans which were donated by Homer Worship, a Russellville, Ala., layman.

WMU leadership training conferences scheduled

Church WMU leaders will have an opportunity for training Aug. 10-12 at Camp Garaywa and Aug. 13-14-15 at "Garaywa on the Road."

Teams of age level leaders will be training at Camp Garaywa and eight other locations around the state so all WMU age group leaders can find a location and a time that is convenient for them. The conferences will be repeated at each time scheduled.

Camp Garaywa: Aug. 10, 6:30-9 p.m.; Aug. 11, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Aug. 12, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Garaywa on the Road: Aug. 13, 6:30-9 p.m., FBC Indianola, West End, West Point, FBC Newton, FBC Gautier; Aug. 14, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (bring a sack lunch)

FBC Indianola, West End, West Point, FBC Newton, FBC Gautier; Aug. 15, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (bring a sack lunch) FBC Batesville, FBC Baldwyn, FBC Brookhaven, Immanuel, Hattiesburg.

Revival dates

Macedonia (Lee): Aug. 9-14; Sun., 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; George Johnson, Nettleton, evangelist; Dexter Griggs, music; Marion Payne, pastor.

Conehatta (Newton): Aug. 9-14; homecoming, Sunday; 7:30 p.m. nightly; Mitchell Smith, speaker; Leonard Raybon, music.

Midway, Newton: Aug. 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Clyde Little, Bay Springs, evangelist; Lawrence White, Newton, music; Wayne Miley, pastor.

Crestview, Petal: Aug. 16-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; John Merck, Lucedale, evangelist; Mark Nelson, Petal, music; nursery provided.

Goodwater (Smith): Aug. 9-14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Steve White, Sardis, evangelist; Wayne Thornton, music; John Adcock, pastor.

McCool Church, McCool: Aug. 9-14; 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily; J. Garland McKee, director, Evangelism Department, MBCB, evangelist; Johnny Doude, music; James L. Bailey, pastor.

Concord Dry Creek, Booneville: Aug. 9-13; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Chuck Hampton, Flora, evangelist; Gerald Thompson, Concord, music; W. G. Dowdy, pastor.

First, Soso: Aug. 9-13; Sunday, 10:55 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Paul Wilson, pastor, evangelist; Ken Culpepper, music.

Oak Grove (Scott): Aug. 9-12; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; A. R. Vaughn, Forest, evangelist; Ted Jones, music; Victor S. Vaughn Sr., pastor.

Salem, Raymond: Aug. 9-12; 7 p.m. nightly; Daniel Hall, pastor, evangelist; Randle Hall, Madison, music.

Dufee, Little Rock: Aug. 9-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Tommy Anderson, Pearl, evangelist; Jason Ivy, Quitman, music; John West, pastor.

Poplar Springs, Fulton: Aug. 9-14; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jerry George, Belmont, evangelist; Tommy Waddle, Fulton, music; Terry Paul Graham, pastor.

CHAIRMAN

From page 3

churches which support the CBF. "We do not appoint churches, we appoint members of churches," Jackson said. "Most of the FMB trustees don't know who is from a

West Drew, Drew: Aug. 9-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Eugene Walden, Cleveland, evangelist; Chad Logan, Cleveland, music; Marvin D. Bibb, pastor.

Victory, Bassfield: Aug. 9-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Bill Nobles, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Bill Wade, Silver Hills, Ala., music.

New Hope, Foxworth: Aug. 9-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; potluck dinner, noon; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; James Sanders, McComb, evangelist; Hubert Greer, Brookhaven, music; Kent Campbell, pastor.

Pilgrim's Rest, Ethel: Aug. 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; James Warren, Philadelphia, evangelist; Joe Styron, Vaiden, music; Walter Hines, pastor.

New Salem, Iuka: Aug. 9-14; 7 p.m. nightly; Rickey Blythe, Dallas, evangelist; Clayton Littlejohn, pastor.

Cranfield, Roxie: Aug. 7-9; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Jamie Coulter, Hendersonville, Tenn., evangelist; Rusty Bowlin, pastor.

Strong Hope, Wesson: Aug. 9-14; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Marvin Howard, Smithdale, evangelist; Cleonae Reid, Lowell Ingram, music; Lowell Ingram, pastor.

Center Hill, Hamilton: Aug. 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. nightly; Ronnie Mitchell, Memphis, evangelist; Charles Sanderson, Amory, music; James Towery, pastor.

Montrose (Jasper): Aug. 9-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Bill Hutto, evangelist; Wayne Bishop, music; W. P. Miley, pastor.

Michael Memorial, Gulfport: Aug. 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:45 p.m.; Phil Waldrep, evangelist; Gerald and Cindy Simmons, music; Craig Conner, pastor.

Holly Springs (Lincoln): Aug. 2-7; 7:30 nightly; Greg Potts, Brookhaven, evangelist; Clayton Hart, music; Glenn McInnis, pastor.

Sand Hill, Ellisville: Aug. 9-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.;

CBF church or not," he continued. "We go through the process. The trustees really have no idea whether a candidate is from a CBF church."

Wyatt is editor of the CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN BAPTIST. Robert O'Brien and Art Tolston also contributed to this story.

dinner in fellowship hall, noon; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; David Walley, Lucedale, evangelist; J. R. Walley, Seminary, music; Jimmy Walley, pastor.

Macedonia, Brookhaven: Aug. 9-12; Sunday, regular services; Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jerry Pipes, evangelist; Joe M. Wallace, music; Robert H. Perry, pastor.

Old Silver Creek (Lawrence): Aug. 9-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. nightly; Lyn Nations, evangelist; Daryl Petry, music; Max Jones, pastor.

Hebron observes 100 years

Hebron Church, Montgomery Association, will celebrate 100 years of service to South Montgomery County, Aug. 9-14. Glen Putnam, pastor of Lakewood Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., will be guest speaker for the revival services, to be held at 7:30 each evening.

Putnam is a graduate of Blue Mountain College, New Orleans Seminary, and Mississippi State University. He is also part-time instructor at Samford University.

After the Sunday morning services, Aug. 9, a lunch will be spread in the fellowship hall.

The Gloryland quartet from First Church, Winona, will sing following lunch.

Tommie and Harvey Overstreet will direct the music. Billy Little is pastor.

Henry will speak at MC graduation

James B. Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., will be the commencement speaker at Mississippi College's summer graduation scheduled for Friday, Aug. 7, 2 p.m. in the A. E. Wood Coliseum on campus.

The summer graduation will close the 166th academic session at the nation's oldest Baptist-supported educational institution. There are 198 candidates for degrees.

Zion Hill will host conference

Spiritual Awakening Conference will be held at Zion Hill Church, Copiah County, Aug. 10-14, 7 p.m.

Speakers will be: Robert Hanvey, Jim Futral, Benjie Ginn, Robert Self, and Billy Dowdy.

Forest Church observes 125th anniversary

Forest Church will observe its 125th anniversary Aug. 9 with a homecoming day.

Bible study will begin at 9:45 a.m. Worship at 11 will include a presentation of the church history. Clyde Little, former pastor, will

deliver the morning message.

A dinner on the grounds will be served at noon. The afternoon program will begin at 1:15, and will include special music by the Forest Church quartet.

Sonny Adkins is pastor.

Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the July issue of the Baptist Record: Rankin: Antioch.

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Homecomings

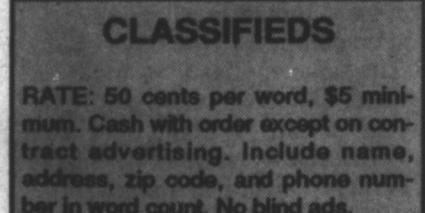
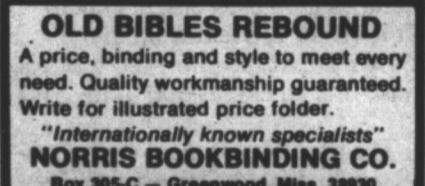
Juniper Grove, Poplarville: Aug. 9; Sunday School, 9:45; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, 1 p.m.; no night services; Deonne Williams, Kenner, La., guest speaker; Philip Hanberry, pastor.

Whitesand, Prentiss: Aug. 9; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon singing, 1:15 p.m.; Rory Lee, Clinton, guest speaker; Joann and David Caraway, Sherrod Rayborn, guest singers; Charles Wesley, pastor.

Oak Grove, Shubuta: Aug. 9; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; Billy Whitekar, pastor.

Salem, Raymond: Aug. 9; revival through Aug. 12, 7 p.m. nightly; Sunday, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; Randle Hall, guest singer; Daniel Hall, pastor.

Fellowship, Ellisville: Aug. 9; beginning 10 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1-3 p.m.; Henry Freeman, Runnelstown, guest speaker; no night services; Randy Clark, pastor.



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Little Bahala, Wesson: Aug. 9; revival through Aug. 14, 7 p.m. nightly; dinner on grounds, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; no night services; Estus Mason, Crystal Springs, guest speaker; Frank Leggett, pastor.

Hebron (Yazoo): Aug. 9; 134th anniversary; dinner on ground, noon; services 7:30 nightly through Aug. 14; Dwight Sibley, Myrtle, guest speaker; Rusty Keen, Yazoo City, singing.

Old Silver Creek (Lawrence): Aug. 9; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch following; Max Jones, pastor.

Calvary, Ellisville: Aug. 9; lunch, noon; afternoon music; Grady Parker, guest speaker; "Southern Expressions," music; Ralph Graves, interim pastor.

Gatesville (Copiah): Aug. 9; revival, 7:30 nightly through Aug. 12; Roland Dear, music; Bill Jeferies, pastor.

Arkadelphia, Bailey: Aug. 16; 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall, noon; Leon Adams, Meridian, guest speaker; afternoon program, 1:30 p.m., Mid-Way Puppet Show; Grover Glenn, pastor.

Thursday, August 6, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Center Ridge celebrates centennial

Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, announces plans for its centennial homecoming and celebration Aug. 9.

Morning worship will begin at 10 a.m., and will include testimonies and special music.

At noon, a covered dish lunch will be served in the fellowship hall. There will be no evening services.

Bryan Abel is pastor.

Junior Hill will speak at Morrison Heights, Clinton

Junior Hill, evangelist, will speak Aug. 10 at noon at a pastors' luncheon, hosted by Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. Ken Alford, pastor, is president of the Pastors' Conference, and will give a report on the November Pastors' Conference.



Staff changes

Cynthia M. Still has been called as minister of education at First Church, Pascagoula. She was formerly state director of WMU, family ministries, and BSU, for the Nevada Convention. She received her education at the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary.



Still

East Corinth Church, Corinth, has called Gary M. Bunch as pastor

effective Aug. 1. A native of Starkville, he received his education at Mississippi State University and Southern Seminary. His previous place of service was Country Woods Church, Jackson.

New Salem Church, Iuka, has called Clayton Littlejohn as pastor effective July 5. A native of Lee County, he received his education at Blue Mountain College, New Orleans Seminary, and Luther Rice Seminary. His previous place of service was Blackwater Church, Kemper Association.

Don Snipes has resigned as pastor of First Church, Lyman, Gulfport, and is available for interim, pulpit supply, revivals, and pastorate. He can be contacted at 832-1224.

Revival results

Calvary Church, Eupora: June 21-26; Joey Faulk, Embry, preaching; 1 profession of faith, two by letter; Tony Faulk, pastor.

Correction

In (BP) story titled "HMB hopes to enlist 250 'key' churches by '95," published in the July 30 issue of the Baptist Record, a phone number offered was a Home Mission Board in-house number not accessible from outside the HMB buildings. The number should have been: HMB's Key Church Strategy, J. V. Thomas, (404) 898-7702.

Just for the Record



Highland Church, Vicksburg, recently held a GA/Acteen recognition service with the theme "The Miracle of Jesus." Pictured at top are 1st-3rd grade GAs, left to right: Marla Richardson, Jessica Rickles, Jennifer Jennings, Kayla Greenlee, Brittany Breazeale, Lauren Newton, Kelly Ashley, Alaina Burton, Rebecca Chick, Laura Beth Steen, and Crystal Cochran. The leader is Robin Herrington.

Pictured in the middle are 4th-6th grade GAs, seated, Megan Terry, Melanie Herrington, Mindy Shinn; standing are Tracy Gordon, Whitney Richardson, Krissy Richmond, Erin Loper, Rachel Patten, Renee Griffith, Brea Hugley. The leader is Joyce Shinn.

Acteens pictured at bottom, left to right, are Queen Amber Miller, Andrea Jennings, page; Queen Tina Shinn, Michael Shinn, page; Queen Carrie Handley, Nicholas Boyd, page; Queen Melissa Herrington, Amanda Gettinger, page; Queen Regent-in Service Tara Hall, Adam Embry, page; Queen Jennifer Richmond, Jason Richmond, page; Queen Regent Amanda Richardson, Ryan Richardson, page; and Queen Haley Terry, John Cochran, page. The leader is Jackie Richardson. William Patten is pastor.

Junior Hill, evangelist, will preach at East McComb Church, McComb, Aug. 9, at both services. East McComb will observe a high attendance Super Sunday Aug. 9. Ricky Kennedy is pastor.

Seminary. Dinner will be served at noon.

New Life Church, Greene Association, will dedicate its new facility at 2 p.m. on Aug. 9. The celebration will conclude the church's revival, which began Aug. 5. Jerry Rawls is pastor.

Grandview Church, Pearl, will show the Billy Graham film, "Eye of Storm," Aug. 9 at 6:45 p.m.

money-making venture rather than one with only a negative cash flow.

Jack Johnson, president of Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, ACTS, and FamilyNet, will be in the Skyroom of the Baptist Building in Jackson, Aug. 19, 10 a.m. He will discuss the sharing of the satellite channel space, and answer questions. All Mississippi ACTS affiliates, local ACTS boards, and others are welcome to attend at no charge. For registration, call the Broadcast Services Department, MBCB, at (601) 968-3800, ext. 3854, by Aug. 17.

Terry is editor, Missouri WORD AND WAY.

Uniform

Establish your priorities



By Margaret H. Rogers
1 Timothy 6:2c-21

Though life was lived at a much slower pace in Paul's day than today, he realized the danger of undue anxiety about money. He believed that no one is any stronger spiritually than the attitude he has about money and what money can buy. He understood the vital relationship between gold and godliness. He was aware of the plague of materialism, and he, like Jesus, deplored the fact that some men give money the place God should occupy in their affections.

Warning directed to the rich (vv. 6-10). Despite almost overwhelming evidence to the contrary, many people still believe that money brings happiness. Rich people who crave greater riches can be caught up in an endless cycle which inevitably results in ruin and destruction. "Do you want to be truly rich? You already are if you are happy and good." Paul gave some principles to Timothy to prevent the love of money: 1. Realize the temporary nature of money (vv. 7, 17); 2. Be content with what you have (v. 8); 3. Monitor what you are willing to do to obtain more money (vv. 9-10); 4. Love people and God's work more than money (v. 11); and 5. Be generous to others with your money (v. 18).

Instruction for wealthy believers (vv. 17-19). Ephesus was a wealthy city and the Ephesian church probably had many wealthy members. Paul advised Timothy to deal with the potential problem by teaching that the possession of riches carries great responsibility. Those who have money must be careful not to place their trust in money instead of in the living God. For their security Jesus taught, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." Heaven can become a celestial depository, secure and eternal. These words have a wider application than to money alone; they apply also to whatever money can buy. Men should convert their temporary possessions into imperishable treasures.

An appeal to Timothy (vv. 20-21). The positive instruction to Timothy was to guard as something very valuable that which was committed to his trust. The young leader was entrusted with a life and ministry which he was instructed to jealously guard. The negative warning given was that he must avoid or shun worldly and empty discussion and pointless argumentation. Likewise, he was to avoid points of controversy in the realm of false knowledge. The wise leader would not lose sight of the most important things in the life of the church; knowing God, working together in harmony, and taking God's good news to the world. The apostle concluded with a solemn prayer and benediction.

In light of the above truths, Paul's warnings of the temptations of riches should cause adults to reassess their desires for monetary gain. His remarks should help them to use material blessings for the glory of God, manifested most clearly in their response to the needs of others. Christians should also evaluate their goals in life and seek to know what God expects of them.

Rogers is a member of Salem Church, Collins.



Bible Book

Wars with Syria, Judah



By David Raddin
2 Kings 13:3-6a, 22-25; 14:11-14

"He did evil in the eyes of the Lord...." What a commentary on the life of Jehoahaz, king of Israel. The king and his nation continued to embrace the idolatrous religion of Jeroboam and refused to worship Yahweh completely. In God's mercy, Elisha the prophet was sent as a deliverer of the nation in Israel.

God's action against Jehoahaz's unfaithfulness (13:3-6a). The Lord became so angry with the unfaithfulness of Israel that for a long time he kept them under the power of Syria. Israel was under the reign of their old enemy, Syrian King Hazael, and his son, Ben-Hadad. Ben-Hadad probably served as commander of the armed forces under his father.

God's mercy was seen in the midst of his wrath as Jehoahaz sought the Lord's favor. God provided a deliverer for Israel. The reaction of the people of Israel was that they continued in their worship of idols.

The Lord condemns the sin in our lives today. His mercy is seen in that "... while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). How tragic that just as with Jehoahaz and the people of Israel, so many people today refuse the deliverance from sin that God offers through Christ.

What sin brings the Lord's displeasure with your life? He offers you deliverance through Christ. Will you confess your sin, ask his forgiveness, and change your life?

Elisha's prophecy against Syria fulfilled (13:22-25). Elisha's prophecy of Israel's defeat of the Syrians came in his dying days. Jehoash, son of Jehoahaz, succeeded his father as king of Israel. When Elisha was suffering from the illness from which he would die, Jehoash went to see him and wept over him.

Jehoash was the second evil king after Jehu. Elisha commanded great respect in the royal court. The Scripture makes plain that Elisha, not the king, was Israel's deliverer sent by God. Elisha prophesied that Israel would partially defeat Syria, specifically three times, since Jehoash only partially followed the instructions of the prophet. The next verse after his prophecy records Elisha's death.

The Lord remembered his covenant relationship with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them the land of Canaan. The Lord showed compassion to Israel as they were victorious over the Syrians. King Hazael of Syria died and Ben-Hadad his son succeeded him as king. Jehoash defeated Ben-Hadad and took back from him the towns taken in battle from Jehoahaz. Jehoash defeated Ben-Hadad three times, just as Elisha had said.

God did not abandon his people, even in their sin. Just as he made his grace available to them, so he offers his grace today. God does not leave us in our sin. He comes to us to call us back to him through repentance and forgiveness.

Judah's defeat by Israel (14:11-14). During Jehoash's second year as king of Israel, Amaziah became king of Judah. Amaziah, like his father Joash, did what was right in the eyes of the Lord but tolerated the places of worship to false gods. Amaziah's devotion to God was not complete. He executed the officials who had murdered his father. He had two victories over the Edomites in battle.

Amaziah requested a meeting with Jehoash. Jehoash refused, comparing himself to a strong cedar tree and Amaziah to a prickly briar bush. The two kings met in battle, and Amaziah of Judah was soundly defeated. Jehoash marched to Jerusalem, took hostages, and plundered the city.

War was recurring between Judah and Israel. The wars we fight in our lives in relationships with others also seem continuing. Jesus calls us to be peacemakers. Pray that the Lord will grant us the wisdom and courage to make peace individual to individual, family to family, nation to nation, and wherever peace needs to be made.

Raddin is pastor, First Church, Summit.

Life and Work

Seeking God's forgiveness



By Milton Burd
2 Samuel 12:1-2, 4-9, 13

There is no such thing as the perfect crime, some would say. The criminal is tracked down and justice served in due time. David may have thought that he was beyond the laws of God and immune from his judgement, but he was confronted in due time by the prophet Nathan, and his sin was not a secret after all. The lesson for this week focuses on David's sin and his response to God. Let's look at 2 Samuel 12.

The parable of Nathan (vv. 1-2, 4). 2 Samuel 11 gives the details about the sin of David. Chapter 12 begins with God sending Nathan to David to confront him with his sin. Nathan used a parable to get David's attention. The parable was about a rich man who took a poor man's lamb. The lamb was used to feed a traveler because the rich man did not want to use one of his own. What a terrible injustice Nathan portrayed as the story unfolded.

The first response of David (vv. 5-6). David's anger was intense. His response was, "This man deserves to die." According to the law, the guilty man must make restitution fourfold for the lamb. Although David didn't know it, he was condemning himself. He had a clear understanding of what was right and wrong because he made judgements regularly as king, yet he could not recognize the sin in his own life.

The direct confrontation of David (vv. 7-8). Nathan said, "You are the man." Nathan perhaps risked life and limb to accuse David of being guilty of sin, but he was God's representative. But now the focus was on David. He had been confronted with his sin. Perhaps David thought that being king made him immune from public scrutiny, if not from God's laws. Nevertheless, David was suddenly faced with his sin. Nathan's message revealed that kings live under God's law, too. God was pronouncing judgement on the king of Israel. Sometimes God uses others to confront the sin in our lives. It is easier to see the sin in the lives of others than in our own. Be thankful for the ways in which God confronts our sin. It is an expression of his love for us.

The sin of David (v. 9). The specifics of David's sin are given by Nathan in verse 9. He had taken Uriah's life; he had taken Uriah's wife (and committed adultery); and he had treated God with contempt. Ultimately, all sin is against God. David showed contempt for God by deliberately sinning against him. The same applies to us today.

The repentance of David (v. 13). To David's credit, he accepted full responsibility for his sin. He could have used numerous excuses, but he confessed when he said, "I have sinned against the Lord." Perhaps David had already experienced guilt feelings about his sin (since he was a man after God's own heart). This confrontation with Nathan provided the opportunity to confess and repent. God's people are uncomfortable in sin. They are out of fellowship with him.

David's confession of sin opened the door to God's forgiveness. Nathan's reply to David was, "The Lord has taken away your sin." What great news for David! What great news for us! God is ready and willing to forgive our sin when we confess. The only sin which God cannot forgive is unconfessed sin. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Thank God that he loves us enough to make us aware of our sin and is willing to forgive our sin when we confess. Remember the hymn, "Keep me from secret sin, Reign thou my soul within; Purify my heart, Help me to be" (Davidson).

Burd is minister of education, First Church, Cleveland.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director



P. O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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(To be continued)



It's hard to believe that BACK TO SCHOOL time is already here.

Much like you, we here at The Village find more month left at the end of our money at a special time like this.

Parents know the seemingly endless list of supplies, fees, clothes, medical bills, etc., that go with starting a new year of school. As you plan for the needs of your immediate family, please take time to pause and remember the needs of your extended family, your BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE.

Your family needs your help once again. Any gift to our BACK TO SCHOOL fund will assure our children that they are loved and not forgotten.

The BR is read

"The Baptist Record is read!" says Mary Lillian Whitten of Macon, who had inquired about a story regarding a magpie and a string of pearls. Lewis Kellum of Tutwiler read her inquiry in the BR and wrote to fill in details she had forgotten:

In a city where love and kindness prevailed, the people erected in the square a statue of Justice which held in its left hand the scales of justice and in its right hand a two-edged sword.

A maid who worked in this city in the home of a rich man was hanged for stealing a pearl necklace. After the hanging, a storm blew down the statue and in the scales was found a magpie's nest holding the string of pearls.

Developing child's self-control produces long-term behavior

NASHVILLE (BP)—When a children's Sunday School teacher is faced with a classroom of children out of control — or just one disruptive child — the first concern is regaining control of the situation.

However, teachers should work on helping children develop self-control that will shape their behavior for longer than the one hour in Sunday School, according to Linda Collins, children's division director at First Church of Ferguson in St. Louis, Mo.

"Control is what we are trying to achieve but outer control might not be the best option," Collins told participants in a session on guiding behavior in children's Sunday School during the Sunday School Leadership Conference at Ridgecrest Conference Center, July 25-Aug. 1.

While maintaining control for the moment may seem important, children's workers should be motivated by what is best for the child, Collins said.

Understanding a child's feelings provides an opportunity for ministry as the worker finds why the child is angry or upset. Often, problems at home or at school can be responsible for a child's behavior, she explained.

Without understanding the reason for those feelings, the worker will not be able to seize the opportunity to minister to the child and his family, she said.

"Children need to believe that

Sunday School is a good place to be — a great place where they feel loved and accepted," she said. "The unruly child may be disruptive but that child is a person that Christ died for."

Rather than correcting a behavior problem in front of other children, workers should think about dealing with the problem individually.

Only after efforts to deal directly with the child have been exhausted should the worker address the parent with the behavior problem, she said.

Teachers should create meaningful activities that the children are interested in. "Don't try to pour Bible study down their throats. Use the material and suggested activities to make it fun," she said.

Creating choices will give a child a feeling of control. "The more choices we can give them, the more response we will get from them," she said. A choice may be between colored pencils or markers, but it involves the child in deciding what he is going to do or how he will do it.

Children deal with requirements for proper behavior at school and in other situations, Collins pointed out. While they should be expected to have self-control in Sunday School as they do in school, "we should be able to deal with them better in Sunday School. Whatever they are dealing with at school, we should be able to deal with it better at Sunday School," Collins said.

capsules

CHRISTIAN COMPUTER NETWORK IN JAPAN: TOKYO, Japan (EP)—A Christian computer network called JemaNET was launched recently by the Japan Evangelical Missionary Association (JEMA) "to share information quickly and extensively through message and file exchanges," the group announced. Missionaries and other users in Japan and abroad can now have access to English information about church growth and planting, children's education, Japanese language and culture, and missionary orientation through the 24-hour computer bulletin board.

G.W. LANKFORD NOMINATED TO MANAGE RIDGECREST: NASHVILLE (BP)—G.W. Lankford, manager of the engineering, maintenance, and construction section of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Property Management Department, will be recommended to become manager of Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center, effective Sept. 1. Board trustees will be asked to approve Lankford, 48, during their semi-annual meeting at Ridgecrest Aug. 17-19, according to T. Michael Arrington, executive vice president for operations. Lankford, who previously worked at Ridgecrest five years, would succeed Ken McAnear, who retires Sept. 1 after 25 years as manager of the national conference center.

Conference offers growth helps for churches in all situations

DALLAS (BP)—While the upcoming Nationwide Church Growth Conference will offer special interest seminars on more than 100 topics, organizers of the four-day meeting say its most distinctive feature is making available specialized learning tracks for churches in various sizes, situations and settings.

The first Nationwide Church Growth Conference, sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board and Home Mission Board in cooperation with the BGCT, is scheduled Aug. 31-Sept. 3 at the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth.

Participants attending conferences will be able to choose seminars according to their churches' current growth situation — growing, declining or plateaued — and their setting, whether town and country, small city or urban. Within each category, individualized conferences will be offered for churches of various sizes.

Specific topics of conferences for declining churches include "Get a Vision: Discover God's

Plan for Your Church," "Capture the Vision: Lead the Church to Growth," "Open the Locked Doors: Manage Resistance to Growth," "Find the Power: Meet God in Worship," "Tell the Story: Reach the People" and "Just Do It: Take the First Step."

Conferences for plateaued churches examine why churches are on the plateau and offer principles and strategies to move off the plateau.

Setting realistic goals for growth and working consistently to achieve them is imperative if plateaued churches want to move ahead, according to conference leader Ron Dyess, pastor of Calvary Church in Hughes Springs, Texas.

Growing churches will discuss using evangelism plans, the role of worship, making Sunday School a revitalized force in church growth and mobilizing the laity in basic and alternative structures for church growth.

"Society is so segmented, there's not one single model that's going to reach everybody anymore," said

Steve Stroope, pastor of Lake Pointe Church, Rowlett, Texas. He will lead a conference for growing, small city churches with average attendance greater than 1,000.

"We don't need to mimic models that have worked elsewhere. We need to learn how to be sensitive to the environment where we are and be creative in developing strategies that will work where we are."

In addition to the size, situation, and setting conferences, special interest seminars will be offered on topics ranging from "The Baby Boomer Sunday School" to "Putting Zap in Your Church's Growth."

Registration cost for the Nationwide Church Growth Conference is \$35 for Southern Baptists, except for students who pay only \$5 for conference materials.

To register, send name, address and phone number, along with a check for the appropriate amount to Nationwide Church Growth Conference, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203. For more information, contact (615) 251-2294.

Preschool kiss, BSU worker nudge couple to altar

By Charles Allbright

Becki said yes.

Patterson said, "Becki, I've got someone you just HAVE to meet."

Go back two weeks before that...

A UCA sophomore named Randy Whiteaker walked into the Baptist Student Union. The counselor on duty was Nancy Patterson. She welcomed Randy and they began an informal visit.

"Tell me something, Randy. What about your first kiss? Do you remember it?"

Randy said yes. He remembered it very well.

He lived in Batesville. At the time of the momentous occurrence, he was going to church preschool.

"There was this cute little girl. Somebody dared me to go over and kiss her. I did. That was my first-ever kiss."

He never saw that cute little girl

again. Her family must have moved away.

Becki lives in Batesville again — Becki Nicholes Whiteaker. She's an agent for White River Insurance Agency. Her husband, Randy, is an analyst in the water lab at Arkansas Eastman.

What happened was, Nancy Patterson, counselor extraordinaire, saw what the Fates had in mind. She arranged for the grown-up preschoolers to meet, there on the UCA campus.

That was back in 1985. This month Becki and Randy will celebrate their sixth wedding anniversary. They met, dated for 10 months, got married and haven't kissed anybody else since.

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Baptist Record
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Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Youth ministers to gather for national conference

NASHVILLE (BP)—Youth ministers attending the Youth Ministry National Conference 4 will be able to choose from more than 100 seminars and workshops on everything from impacting the school campus to training parents of youth in sex education.

The April 19-23, 1993, conference is jointly sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood Commission. Meetings will be at three locations in downtown Nashville — the board's Nashville headquarters, Nashville Convention Center, and First Church of Nashville.

Morning Bible studies during the

week will be led by Dan Yeary, pastor of University Church in Coral Cables, Fla., and each of the evening worship celebrations will feature a different ethnic influence.

A luncheon at Opryland also is planned followed by a "Christian Artist Showcase" at one of the theme park's theaters. Several nationally recognized contemporary Christian recording artists will perform and then participate in a dialogue session with youth ministers.

For a conference brochure and registration information, write Richard Ross, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, MSN 158, 127 Ninth Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37234.

August 6, 1992